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Hafa Adai!

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75¢

Two road accidents injure 5

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Three occupants of an overturned pickup truck were seriously injured, including one who was tossed into the air from the truck's bed, during a crash involving two other vehicles at the intersection of Chalan Pale Arnold and Kopa Di Oru Street near Sugar King Park in Garapan yesterday at noon.

As this developed, two Chinese men were hurt, including one who was seriously injured, after they were hit and run over by vehicles along Beach Road near Kanoa Resort last night.

In the first incident, Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services spokesman Derek Gersonde said all three victims were brought to the Commonwealth Health Center's emergency room.

Gersonde said a 54-year-old man who was sitting in the bed of the pickup truck was found unconscious with a laceration on the head and abrasions on the body.

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FERDIE DE LA TORRE

Police officers assist medics in taking one of three victims into an ambulance from an overturned pickup truck after a crash involving two other vehicles along Chalan Pale Arnold in Garapan yesterday at noon.

To All Our Valued Customers,
We would like to apologize that Shirley's Coffee Shop will be
CLOSED
Thank you for your understanding
Management

About half of Shirley's Coffee Shop's employees were affected by the Commonwealth-only permit delays, with only two cooks at the helm, forcing the closure of the restaurant's Susupe location.

DAISY DEMAPAN

Shirley's down to 2 cooks

By DAISY DEMAPAN
daisy_demapan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

» Susupe location temporarily closed

About half of Shirley's Coffee Shop's employees were affected by the Commonwealth-only permit delays, an eye-opening reality that has brought panic to employers since the Dec. 31, 2015, expiration.

The family restaurant in Susupe, a popular staple in the community for its American, Filipino, and Chamorro cuisine, closed its doors this week, worsening the crises of service-oriented businesses that rely on additional CW support for continued operations.

According to restaurant manager Noelle Macario, the restaurants employ a total of 50 employees for their dining and kitchen areas for their Garapan and Susupe branches.

She says their Susupe location has closed shop indefinitely until CW delays are resolved.

Right now, they have focused

See COOKS on Page 4

Inos' remains arrive today

By DENNIS B. CHAN
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REPORTER

A motorcade will take the remains of the late governor Eloy S. Inos from the Francisco C. Ada-Saipan International Airport to the Borja Funeral Home in Oleai today, with the plane expected to touch down around 2:45pm.

Inos

An impressive color guard and pall bearers—from each law enforcement agency like the departments of Safety, Corrections, Fire, among others—will welcome and accompany Inos' casket, according to administration officials present at a dry-run of the proceedings yesterday morning at the airport.

Press secretary Ivan Blanco said yesterday that the public can expect the motorcade to leave the airport around 3:15pm. There will be designated areas for the public to wait, as set by law enforcement agencies, and miniature U.S. and CNMI flags will be handed out.

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LOCAL

BSI majority shareholder Margaret Cui Lijie reaffirms her commitment to the CNMI.

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LOCAL

It's a story of keeping promises mired in the bureaucracy of the U.S. immigration system.

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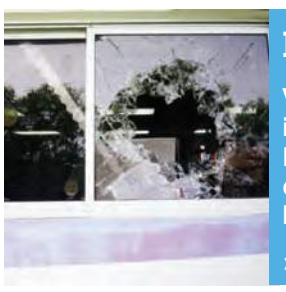

LOCAL

Vandals burglarize the Koblerville Elementary School during the Christmas break.

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GOT A NEWS TIP? TEL: 235-6397 / 235-2440 FAX: 235-3740 EMAIL: editor@saipantribune.com

Local

BSI's majority shareholder affirms commitment to NMI

Best Sunshine International, Ltd. majority shareholder Margaret Cui Lijie took part in the company's recent cleanup and tree-planting activity at the Dandan Homestead Children's Park.

The activity is part of BSI's corporate social responsibility program through its "Village Pride Project."

The project, among others, encourages the continued protection of the environment and building community partnership.

"The beautiful islands of the CNMI have long ago captured my heart. I vividly recall how mesmerized I felt when I arrived here during my first visit many years ago," Cui recalled, as she expressed her deep gratitude to the people of the CNMI for their "warmth, care and kindness."

Cui is the majority stockholder of Imperial Pacific International, Best Sunshine's parent company, which has been awarded an exclusive resort developer license by the CNMI government in 2014.

Her participation in the "Village Pride Project" mirrors the company's commitment to developing a $7.1-billion integrated resort on Saipan.

"I have been dreaming about one day developing a comprehensive, family-oriented luxury resort in a pristine natural environment, where we can satisfy the needs of our customers, who are among Asia's highest net worth individuals," she said.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Margaret Cui Lijie, the majority stockholder of Best Sunshine International's parent company, Imperial Pacific International, joins BSI's corporate social responsibility employees in the cleanup at the Dandan Homestead Children's Park.

Both economic watchers and CNMI leaders acknowledged that Best Sunshine's integrated resort investment is expected to usher economic revival, primarily upping the lagging tourism market.

The five-phase development plan calls for over 4,000 rooms, 300 villas, a Chamorro and Carolinian cultural center, and the world's largest water park.

This is going to be the largest and most expensive infrastructure development undertaking this side of the world— "a dream project which all our children can inherit and enjoy for generations to come," Cui said.

"Our specialists scoured many of the beautiful islands in the Pacific and Indian oceans. But when the opportunity arose to participate in the development of a grand signature project in Saipan, it was a euphoric moment for me," she said.

It was through perseverance, grit, and hard work that she owes what she had achieved today.

"I fully understand that the economy of CNMI is at a critical stage. I sincerely hope that through my effort and with the support of the people, we can grow the economy with new investment, create ample job opportunities, improve the environment and raise the living standards for everyone," Cui said.

She reaffirmed her commitment to "high business ethics, compliance, respect and preserving the environment and the local culture."

"It is now our turn to repay these blessings through this exciting opportunity to invest in your beautiful islands," added Cui. "We will strive to turn the CNMI into an envy of the world as a tourism destination."

Cui's love affair with the islands mirrors her beginnings. Hailing from Hong Kong, she grew up appreciating the simple things in life.

"Our dear parents were loving and caring but firm at the same time. We were taught respect for our elders, the environment and cultural values of our close knit community." ***(BSI)***

Demapan honors Inos with resolution

Rep. Angel Demapan has prefiled a resolution to honor Eloy S. Inos, saying the late governor embodied all the characteristics of a true statesman—intelligence, humility, kindness, and vision that made "it possible for him to overcome obstacles and cross political lines to unite our leaders in order to take the government out of its economic decline, save the pensions of our retirees and their beneficiaries, and lead us on to the path of economic recovery"

"Inos used his financial expertise and political insight to invite new investors, businesses, and visitors to the Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands," the resolution states.

The resolution recognizes Inos' contribution to the public and private sector, noting his decades of service in the Trust Territory and Commonwealth governments as revenue and taxation director, and Finance Department director secretary, as well as his time in several executive leadership positions under Tan Holdings Corp.

"It is with hope that future generations understand and appreciate his benevolence, the merit of his causes, and the quality of his service that he has relentlessly shown to the citizens of our great Commonwealth for over 30 years." ***(Dennis B. Chan)***

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2 suspects in $4.3M 'ice' bust plead guilty

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Zhenlin Fang, the second defendant facing charges over the seizure and detection of methamphetamine or "ice" worth about $4.3 million, pleaded guilty in federal court yesterday.

At a change of plea hearing, Fang, 24, pleaded guilty to count 1 of the indictment charging him with conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute 50 grams or more of methamphetamine.

The offense carries a minimum mandatory penalty of 10 years imprisonment, but also allows for a maximum sentence of up to life in prison. The offense also carries a maximum fine of $10 million and at least a five-year term of supervised release.

Under the plea agreement, the U.S. government and Fang agree that the appropriate sentence is 120 months or 10 years imprisonment in a U.S. Bureau of Prison facility.

Fang also agrees to forfeit the $2,280 that was seized from him and co-defendant Yuliu Liu on July 22, 2015.

Attorney Steven Pixley served as court-appointed counsel for Fang. Assistant U.S. attorney Garth Backe appeared for the U.S. government.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona vacated the jury trial set for Jan. 26, 2016, and set the sentencing hearing for April 22, 2016, at 9am.

Fang was remanded to the custody of the U.S. Marshal.

Last week, Liu, 36, pleaded guilty to count 1 of the indictment charging him with possession with intent to distribute 50 grams or more of methamphetamine. The offense has the same penalty as the offense that Fang pleaded guilty to. Under the deal, Liu agreed to a sentence of 120 months or 10 years imprisonment in a U.S. Bureau of Prison facility. Liu will be sentenced on April 22, 2016, at 9am. He remains under custody.

Attorney Mark Hanson served as court-appointed counsel for Liu. Assistant U.S. attorney Backe appeared for the U.S. government.

A Customs inspector detected the "ice" inside an air compressor in a container from Guangzhou, China, at the seaport warehouse on Saipan last July 17. That led federal and local law enforcers to make a follow-up investigation that ended with the arrest of Li and Fang last July 22 when they picked up the air compressor at the Sunleader Company warehouse.

Over 10,700 grams of "ice" was found inside the compressor. About 130 grams of "ice" were later discovered at Liu's house during a search operation.

The $4.3 million worth of "ice" seized is considered the biggest drug haul in CNMI history.

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'Republican bill will be devastating to NMI'

By FRAULEINE VILLANUEVA-DIZON
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REPORTER

If it becomes law, a bill passed by U.S Congress that could take away millions in Medicaid funding for the CNMI would be devastating, a top official of the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. said.

"It would be devastating for our people, the hospital and the entire health care system," CHCC chief executive officer Esther Muna told *Saipan Tribune.*

The Republican majority in the U.S. House of Representatives has voted to take away approximately $26 million in Medicaid funding for the Northern Mariana Islands that was part of the Affordable Care Act. Funding for other insular areas was also cut.

"To date that amounts to over $52 million, new money that was essential to keeping the Commonwealth Health Center open after the hospital lost local funding. And the Northern Marianas still has another $57 million in the Affordable Care Act pipeline between now and 2019. What the Republican bill would do is end all of that funding in 2017—a loss of about $26 million to CHC and to the low-income families who depend on Medicaid to pay for their health care," said Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP).

The bill now goes to President Barack Obama, who is expected to veto it.

"It is unfortunate that the Republicans who are deciding this have no idea how limited access to quality health care is here in the CNMI and the rest of the territories," Muña said. "How the Medicaid program works for the territories compared to the 50 states is one huge factor for the inequity."

"We›ve been fighting for health equity and obviously, an act like this will drive us further away from it and hurt many more individuals and families," Muña added.

DUA to end in Feb.; over $138K disbursed

By FRAULEINE VILLANUEVA-DIZON
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REPORTER

The Disaster Unemployment Assistance of the Federal Emergency Management Agency being administered by the CNMI Department of Labor will be closing soon.

According to Labor Secretary Edith DeLeon Guerrero, the program will end in February.

"It's coming up to a close. It's only good for 27 weeks," DeLeon Guerrero said.

The DUA, like other financial assistance from FEMA, is also under the Stafford Act and is available to U.S. citizens, non-citizen nationals, and qualified aliens who lost their jobs and self-employed individuals who have been unable to work due to damage sustained from Typhoon Soudelor.

It is an assistance that eligible individuals have to file for every week.

According to DeLeon Guerrero, the funds that were disbursed so far amount to $138,315.

A total of 67 individuals have qualified for the assistance, nine of whom were self-employed.

She said most of the workers who were under the program have entry-level position jobs. There were also about two farmers and an aquaculture worker who were given assistance.

"Many of them already have returned to work. Some of them are self-employed individuals so they've already opened their doors back to operations," DeLeon Guerrero said.

"It really helps them out in the meantime that they are looking for work," she added.

DOL started receiving applications for DUA last September. Overall, 352 applications were received but most of them were foreign workers under the CW program, who are not eligible for financial assistance from FEMA.

ACCIDENTS

From Page 1

The other passenger of the pickup truck, a 53-year-old man, showed signs of altered mental status at first but later complained of pain in the chest and lower extremities, Gersonde said.

The 45-year-old male driver of the pickup truck complained of pain on the left shoulder.

Medics applied a cervical collar and used a spine board to stabilize all three patients' necks and spines.

No one was injured in the two other vehicles, which only had moderate damage, *Saipan Tribune* learned.

Gersonde said DFEMS received a call from 911 dispatch about an overturned vehicle along Chalan Pale Arnold Road near Sugar King Park at 12:14pm. Medics from Koblerville, Garapan, and Susupe fire stations responded.

Saipan Tribune sought more information from the Department of Public Safety, but there was no reply as of press time.

According to witnesses, a Toyota car being driven by a Chinese male music teacher had just come from the parking area of a hardware store across the Garapan Central Park. The teacher drove the car to Chalan Pale Arnold and went to the inner lane to turn left at the intersection of Kopa Di Oru Street.

The white pickup truck, which was traveling south on the inner lane of Chalan Pale Arnold, hit the teacher's car on the left side. The truck lost control and flipped over, causing its passenger to be thrown off. The truck also struck the left driver's side of a northbound Honda Civic being driven by a woman.

The truck overturned in the middle of Chalan Pale Arnold, with its front facing the Saipan Museum area.

Northbound vehicles immediately stopped to prevent hitting the unconscious victim who was thrown from the truck.

Responding medics, assisted by police officers, removed the driver and one passenger who was pinned underneath the overturned truck.

A witness said he was shocked because "it was like a scene in a Transformer movie."

The accident snarled traffic along Chalan Pale Arnold and Beach Road for over an hour as officers rerouted traffic flow.

It is not clear yet who was found at fault. The road was wet as it was drizzling at that time.

In the second crash, Gersonde said the 18-year-old Chinese male had lacerations and deformities on the head and had abrasions on the upper and lower extremities.

Gersonde said the teenager was pinned underneath the car.

The second victim, a 23-year-old Chinese man, complained of pain on the left arm.

Both patients were brought to the CHC emergency room.

Gersonde said DFEMS received a call from 911 dispatch about an auto-pedestrian accident in Chalan Kanoa at 6:30pm.

Medics from Koblerville, Garapan and Susupe fire stations responded and removed the teenager from underneath the car.

Medics used a cervical and spine board to prevent any further injuries to the teenager.

No other details were given. DPS has yet to release information about the incident.

Participants sought for Sanpo-En Cultural Students Exchange Program

By FRAULEINE VILLANUEVA-DIZON
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REPORTER

The Saipan Mayor's Office is looking for participants for this year's Sanpo-En Winter Cultural Students Exchange Program.

According to the mayor's student cultural exchange program coordinator Yuki Kishimoto, this year's trip is set for Feb. 3 to 9.

"This is a Saipan cultural exchange program so we are looking for locals especially Chamorro or Carolinian students to represent the island," Kishimoto said.

Interested participants must be 12 to 18 years old.

The Mayor's Office is looking at about 12 student participants for this year's trip. Some chaperones from their office will also assist during the trip.

Students who will participate will have to pay for their own airfare but other expenses will be shouldered by the cultural exchange group.

"Same as every year, the students will pay their own airfare but the accommodations in Japan such as transportation, meal, and lodging will be covered by the Sanpo-En group," Kishimoto said.

Application forms can be picked up at the Mayor's Office or downloaded online through their website, www.saipanmayor.net.

Kishimoto said the deadline for applications is on Jan. 13.

For more information, call the Saipan Mayor's Office at 234-6208.

COOKS

From Page 1

their efforts on keeping the high traffic Garapan location open for business.

"What we are trying to do is keep this one location open. Although most of the 25 who aren't working are dining staff, it's the kitchen that is in trouble right now because we only have four people," she said.

Macario said the four employees who are currently at the helm of the restaurant's operations are two main cooks and two helpers and dishwashers.

She said the Garapan location, which is normally a 24-hour restaurant operation, is also experiencing setbacks. It is currently operating from 6am to 10pm at night until further notice.

"We are trying to make do with what we have by adjusting their schedules because Garapan is 24 hours so we are putting it down to 16 hours so [the cooks] can get some rest," she said.

Yesterday, she said, some dining staff's work permits were renewed but this has not alleviated the pressure on kitchen operations.

Macario says all 25 CW renewal applications were submitted in October, fulfilling the 90-day timeframe recommended by U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service but she is still waiting on updates for their remaining 20 CW employees.

She said that USCIS has not issued them any requests for evidence.

"We're just hoping that our customers are understanding because we are understaffed and it's slower than usual," she said.

INOS

From Page 1

Blanco told reporters this after a final planning meeting late yesterday afternoon. Cabinet members—who will also be at Inos' arrival—were also called in for a meeting around 1:30pm at the Office of the Governor on Capital Hill.

It's been a busy week for officials on the hill as they plan Inos' arrival and funeral proceedings. More than a dozen dignitaries will be arriving from off-island starting this weekend—with the arrival of Insular Affairs Assistant Secretary Esther Kia'aina on Saturday, *Saipan Tribune* learned yesterday.

Those who have confirmed their attendance at Inos' funeral at Mount Carmel Church on Tuesday, Jan. 12, include Guam Gov. Eddie Calvo, Federated States of Micronesia Vice President Yosiwo George and his executive staff, Republic of Palau Vice President Antonio Bells and staff, State of Yap Lt. Gov. James Yangetmai, Jerome Ierome who will be representing the American Samoa governor, former Guam governor Felix Camacho and his wife JoAnn, and Lt. Gen. Anthony Crutchfield, a three-star general and deputy commander of the U.S. Pacific Command in Hawaii, as well as several U.S Coast Guard captains and lieutenants.

Inos died last week, Dec. 29, after a protracted battle with diabetes, making him the only CNMI governor to pass away while in office. He was 66 years old.

Republicans seek to cut $26M in Medicaid for NMI

By DENNIS B. CHAN
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REPORTER

U.S. Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) and Gov. Ralph DLG Torres slammed yesterday a cut of about $26 million in crucial Medicaid funding for the Northern Marianas, which came as part of a vote by the U.S House Republican majority to repeal the Affordable Care Act, widely known as Obamacare.

The move cuts similar funding for American Samoa, Guam, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

"I just do not understand how any political party can justify taking so much from people who have so little," Sablan said in a statement yesterday. He called the move one that would end all of the funding—another $57 million in the Affordable Care Act pipeline between now and 2019—to the CNMI in 2017—a loss of about $26 million to the local hospital and to the low-income families who depend on Medicaid to pay for their health care.

The repeal is the Republican Party's latest attempt to gut President Barack Obama's signature health care law, a five-year-and-counting effort that has survived U.S. Supreme Court scrutiny and attempts by U.S lawmakers to overhaul the legislation. This is the first time a full repeal has made it to the White House, after dozens of previous votes.

Obama is expected to soundly veto the bill—H.R. 3762—which House Republicans and Speaker Paul Ryan have argued as a symbolic effort to confront Obama with alleged failures of the law.

Ryan has pledged that the House will come up with its own plan this year—something the GOP has repeatedly promised but failed to do in the nearly six years since the law's enactment, according to an Associated Press report yesterday.

Regardless of the politics surrounding the Affordable Care Act in Washington, D.C., Gov. Ralph DLG Torres told *Saipan Tribune* in an email yesterday, "the fact of the matter is that Medicaid services provide access to healthcare to a vast number of our residents."

"To reduce the federal funding for this important program that provides for lower-income households in the CNMI does a disservice to the disproportionate amount of the population living under the federal poverty guidelines," added Torres.

Federal Medicaid match decreased

Republicans also voted to raise the local match required for Medicaid to 50 percent. The Affordable Care Act had lowered the local share for the insular areas to 45 percent.

Sablan called this a "setback," on top of the straight loss to federal Medicaid dollars. He noted that the Affordable Care Act took a step in the right direction by changing the local/federal cost-share from 50/50 to 45/55, "giving the CNMI a better local/federal match than 22 states."

If the CNMI were treated exactly like a state and the match were calculated based on income levels in the Marianas, Sablan said, it would be in the neighborhood of "20 percent local and 80 percent federal."

"Being treated like a state for Medicaid remains my goal," said Sablan. "But today's Republican vote takes us in the opposite direction."

Under the Affordable Care Act, Medicaid funding increased from about $50 million to $158 million over the 10-year period ending in September 2019—a three-fold increase.

Sablan is now looking at what comes after 2019, saying that the local hospital and poor families cannot go back to the days when the CNMI received only $5 million per year for Medicaid.

"We should be enacting legislation that continues—or expands—the new funding provided by the Affordable Care Act. Instead, the majority wants to take us backwards to the way Medicaid worked in the Northern Marianas before 2009," said Sablan.

In his email, Torres applauded Sablan's efforts to protect the Medicaid program and "our ability to continue the necessary work to improve the overall health outcomes of our people."

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Adopted children denied entry to Saipan

By DAISY DEMAPAN
daisy_demapan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

It's a story of keeping promises to family and strong cultural values mired in the complexities and arcane bureaucracy of the U.S. immigration system.

U.S. citizen parents Valrick and Turianna Welch have been trying to bring to Saipan the children of their daughter, who passed away last year in March, but their efforts have been met with failure again and again.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Valrick Welch embraces his three adopted children who are Kiribati citizens, as he says goodbye to them at the Pohnpei International Airport after the children were denied entry into the CNMI.

Their adopted daughter, Esther, is Turianna's niece, whom she had raised since Esther was a child. Both were born in Kiribati.

Known before as the Gilbert Islands under the control of the British in 1892 and a colony in 1915, Kiribati was captured by the Japanese during the war in 1941. Today, the Republic of Kiribati is an independent country, independent from the United Kingdom since 1979.

» US immigration law denies visas to US citizen parents

The Welchs moved to Saipan in the 1990s, during the time when immigration control belonged to the CNMI government. After a few years, the Welchs gave Esther the opportunity to attend boarding school in Kiribati during her teen years, unsuspecting of immigration issues that would ensue decades later.

Esther passed away on March 18 last year due to an infection, possibly caused by her third childbirth only weeks before her death.

Valrick and his wife legally adopted all three children of their daughter through the Kiribati High Court, with the eventual plan to bring them to Saipan. All attempts, however, to bring them to Saipan have failed.

The three children currently reside in Pohnpei, the closest place to Saipan where their grandchildren—now their court-adopted children—are allowed to travel using Kiribati passports. Currently, the children are dispersed amongst extended family members, while paying for costly childcare for the youngest.

According to Valrick, the children's biological father follows cultural beliefs and has relinquished control over his children, since under their culture, responsibility for child-rearing lies solely on the mother.

The Welchs have tried but failed to obtain non-immigrant visas for their adoptive children but the three have been denied tourist visas.

On Dec. 15, Valrick was found ineligible for a non-immigrant visa known as a temporary Bridging Visa that allows for travel until a substantive visa is processed, especially since the children are minors.

According to the denial letter issued by the U.S. Embassy in Majuro, a denial means that the Welchs were unable to demonstrate that their "intended activities" in the U.S. would be consistent with non-immigrant visa categories—"intended activities" that simply involve bringing their late daughter's three children to Saipan to care for them.

The embassy said the decision cannot be appealed and the application process must be repeated again.

A futile process, Valrick said, under the current law.

Further complicating the process is that Kiribati is not a party to the Hague Convention on Protection of Children and Co-operation in respect of Intercountry Adoption.

Under the Hague Convention, Kiribati's cultural practices and their determination of the children's legal adoption does not guarantee the same validity under U.S. immigration law.

The Welchs are currently working on a one-year permit that will lead to eligibility for their adoptive children to apply for Federated States of Micronesia citizenship, a process that takes two years, so that their children can move to Saipan with them.

"We are very frustrated. At the same time, we are not blaming individuals but an immigration system unable to accommodate the specific needs of the CNMI," he said.

The non-Hague adoptions unit of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service contacted the Welchs via email to inform them that when President Obama signed the Intercountry Adoption Universal Accreditation Act of 2012 on Jan. 14, 2013, which became effective July 14, 2014, this required that all international adoptions adhere to specific requirements regarding home studies, home study preparers, and primary providers of adoption services.

The issue with this, the Welchs say, is that it requires them to reside in the United States or to find an embassy or an accredited adoption service provider, which Kiribati and the CNMI lack. Either way, he said, all options have proved costly and lengthy.

"U.S. immigration laws are one-size fits all," he said.

Due to USCIS restrictions and the lack of a nearby U.S. Embassy, the Welchs are considering moving to the U.S. mainland to meet the requirement for an accredited U.S. adoption service provider.

"We've gone through the Division of Youth Services, through family court and went to Guam," he said, but none of the adoptive processes are recognized as accredited.

"Now because of the law change in 2014, it is impossible to adopt a child in Kiribati and bring the child to the CNMI," he said.

The Welchs have submitted an application for humanitarian parole last week, in hopes that U.S. immigration recognizes the urgency of their children's predicament as a compelling emergency.

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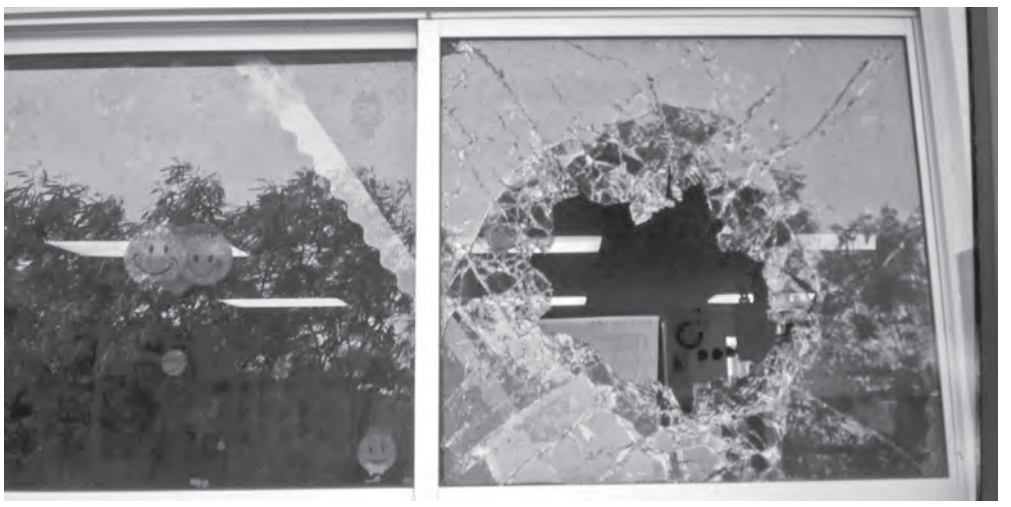
LOCATIONS - Saipan & Rota

Koblerville Elementary burglarized over the holidays

By DAISY DEMAPAN
daisy_demapan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



DAISY DEMAPAN
Vandals broke the windows of several Koblerville Elementary School classrooms during Christmas break. The Department of Public Safety started conducting their investigation on Sunday.

Students and school officials of Koblerville Elementary School returned after the Christmas break to a campus hit by vandals who had burglarized several classrooms.

According to principal Rizalina Liwag, the vandals targeted the school on Dec. 22 and then again on New Year's Day.

She noted that the first burglary broke the window of a first grade classroom and a door window of a fourth grade classroom. On New Year's Day, vandals targeted a second grade classroom by shattering its windows.

Liwag said the school was closed for the holidays and that gates are always kept locked but that after Typhoon Soudelor, their baseball field dugout was blown away, creating a point of entry for anyone with ulterior motives.

They've now hired a security guard to prevent further burglaries but Liwag said that students and faculty are still being urged to remain vigilant to prevent any future intrusions.

Considering the possibility that students may have information on the matter, counselor Femie Rey addressed the student body and is waiting for someone to come forward with information.

"It's about safety for everyone. We feel afraid but no one should be afraid. This situation takes away valuable instructional hours and really impacts their learning," she said.

Liwag expressed the need for the community to be involved and vigilant as well. "We need to take care of the school. This is a place of learning and we must respect it," she said.

She said the only item stolen from both burglaries was an Apple iPad used for instructional purposes.

Liwag said that teachers tend to not leave equipment in the classroom and often secure school property in a safer area.

"We don't have equipment in the classroom. There really shouldn't be any reason to break in," she said.

The damage to school property has been assessed and is awaiting repairs. Liwag said the damaged windows have been temporarily covered with plywood until repairs are made.

The Department of Public Safety took the school's statement on Sunday as part of an ongoing investigation.

If you or anyone you know has information on the school burglaries, contact Crime Stoppers at 234-7272 or submit an anonymous tip at www.nmi.crimestoppersweb.com.

144 new books available at JKPL

A total of 144 new items are now available at the Joeten Kiyu Public Library.

According to Ray Deleon Guerrero of JKPL, their new collection, which ranges from AV2 and juveniles, to young adults and adult literature, was received last month.

The selection includes recommended readings such as *Dangerous Passage*, *I've Got You Under My Skin, The Tilted World, Death Overdue, The Survivor: A Mitch Rapp Novel, See Me: A Novel, Chicken Soup for Every Mom's Soul, QuickBooks 2014 for Dummies, The Mammoth Book of Best Horror Stories, Wild Justice, Chicken Soup for the Couple's Soul, The Way of Kings*, as well as new magazine issues.

Deleon Guerrero is inviting the public to also check out their daily book sale section for as low as 50 cents. ***(Daisy Demapan)***

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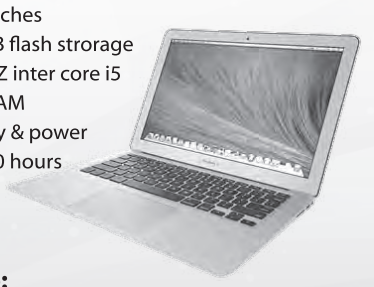

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2 Does not apply to access through Quicken® or QuickBooks®. Optional Online Banking features may incur additional fees. You must be enrolled in FHB Online and have a mobile device with Internet to use FHB Mobile Banking. Device must have a rear-facing camera with autofocus to use Mobile Deposit. See FAQs in the "Mobile Deposit" section of fhb.com/mobile for Mobile Deposit eligibility requirements. Checks deposited via Mobile Deposit are treated as deposits by mail for funds availability purposes. See Terms and Conditions of FHB Online services for full details. Text banking not available in Guam or CNMI.
3 Free eStatements or paper statements.

'Rev&Tax chief should decide tax status of Settlement Fund'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI government has asked the U.S. District Court for the NMI to hold off on deciding whether the NMI Settlement Fund is a tax-exempt entity, saying it should refer that decision to the director of Revenue and Taxation.

However, if the District Court proceeds with deciding the issue, the CNMI government takes the position that the NMI Settlement Fund is a tax-exempt entity, according to assistant attorney general Teresita Sablan.

Sablan, as counsel for the CNMI government, the governor, Department of Finance, and Finance Secretary Larrisa Larson, filed the government's response to the issue after designated judge Frances Tydingco-Gatewood sought a full briefing on Settlement Fund trustee Joyce C.H. Tang's position that the Settlement Fund is a nonprofit, tax exempt entity under CNMI law.

Tydingco-Gatewood will hear the motion on Jan. 21, 2016.

Sablan said the Settlement Fund is merely carrying out the business of the NMI Retirement Fund under the control and supervision of the District Court.

As such, Sablan said, the Settlement Fund's tax liability mirrors that of the Retirement Fund—it is exempt from taxation.

Tang earlier asked Attorney General Edward Manibusan for an opinion regarding the Settlement Fund's tax status but Manibusan declined, saying the Settlement Fund does not fall within the scope of his representation. Instead, he recommended that Tang direct her request to the Revenue and Taxation director.

Sablan said the Revenue and Taxation director did not receive such a request from Tang and, instead, asked the District Court to make that determination.

Sablan said federal law subjects the Settlement Fund to applicable state and local taxes. As the official who must enforce the Commonwealth tax laws, it is the Revenue and Taxation director who should decide whether the Settlement Fund is exempt from taxation, Sablan said.

She said if there were a dispute over the District Court's jurisdiction to enforce the agreement or a dispute about the meaning of any provision of the Settlement Agreement, then the District Court would be the rightful arbiter.

However, Sablan said, the issue raised cannot be classified as either—no party is disputing the court's jurisdiction to enforce the agreement and no provision of the settlement agreement touches upon the Settlement Fund's tax status.

As such, she said, the court should refrain from making the determination and refer the matter to the Revenue and Taxation director.

"If the court proceeds to make the requested determination, it should find that the Settlement Fund is exempt from taxation because it is carrying on the business of the Commonwealth government, and not because it is an extension of the District Court," Sablan said.

Because the Retirement Fund is exempt from taxation, so is the Settlement Fund, Sablan said.

Sablan concluded that whether the Settlement Fund is exempt from taxation does not relate to the enforcement or interpretation of the Settlement Agreement; it relates to the enforcement of Commonwealth tax laws—laws by which the Settlement Fund must abide.

She said the Revenue and Taxation director is responsible for enforcing and interpreting tax laws, and it is the director who should determine whether the Settlement Fund is exempt from taxation.

The issue of whether the Fund has non-profit tax exempt status has delayed the completion of its fiscal year 2014 audit.

Tang and the counsel for Betty Johnson's class action members recently filed a joint motion to confirm the Fund's status as a tax-exempt entity.

According to Fund trustee counsel Dean A. Manglona and Johnson's class counsel Robert M. Hatch, the Settlement Fund is a tax exempt entity because the settlement agreement in Johnson's class action expressly provides for the appointment of a "person to act as an officer of the District Court to be the trustee of the Settlement Fund."

Manglona and Hatch said the Settlement Agreement further provides that the trustee of the Settlement Fund has the powers of a federal equity receiver under Federal Rules of Civil Procedure 66, and "shall act as the receiver for the Settlement Fund."

As such, the lawyers said, the trustee reports directly to the District Court.

According to Tang, the audit for the Settlement Fund for fiscal year 2014 by Ernst & Young began in January 2015 and has been completed.

However, Tang said, because of a disagreement between the NMI government and the Settlement Fund on the issue of whether the Settlement Fund is a nonprofit, tax-exempt entity, the completion of the audit has been delayed.

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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

'Bark in the Park' at AMP today

This week in 1946 all combat dogs that were serving in the Pacific during World War II were returned to the United States. In honor of these canine heroes, the American Memorial Park and Pacific Historic Parks will be hosting "Bark in the Park," an event commemorating their services during the war, today, Jan. 8. Starting at 3:30pm visitors will have the opportunity to personalize dog tags and make military decorations for their canine friends. The memorials located within American Memorial Park will be available for touring as well as posters spotlighting Saipan's canine heroes and handlers.

At 6pm in the amphitheater of American Memorial Park the movie *War Dogs of the Pacific* will be shown (running time 45 minutes). During the event, please keep your dog on a leash and clean up after them. For more information, contact Nicole Schafer at 670-989-7810. ***(NPS)***

Military training at FDM, Warning Area 517

ASAN, Guam—The U.S. Air Force will conduct training at the island of Farallon de Medinilla on Jan. 8, from 10am to 6pm. The general public, especially fishermen, commercial pilots and marine tour operators are advised to stay clear of the areas during the dates and times indicated. The general location of the training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla will be on a 12-nautical mile radius on all quadrants. W-517 is an irregular shaped polygon comprising of 14,000 nautical square miles of airspace that begins south of Guam and extends south-southwest in international waters. ***(PR)***

Volunteers sought for Sugar Dock cleanup

The Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality's Cleanup Brigade will be picking up trash at Sugar Dock on Saturday, Jan. 9, 2016, starting at 8am. If you would like to volunteer, meet the BECQ representatives on Saturday at the Sugar Dock area/parking lot at 8am. Volunteers will split into groups and clean until 10am and break for drinks and then continue, if needed. This month, outstanding brigade volunteers who participated in at least 10 monthly cleanups will receive a brigade cap and those who participated in at least three cleanups will receive a brigade T-shirt. For more information about volunteering, contact the BECQ office at 664-8500/1. ***(BECQ)***

NMHC survey: Residents want to live in Sinapalo

By FRAULEINE VILLANUEVA-DIZON
frauleine_villanueva@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Northern Marianas Housing Corp. recently conducted an informal survey regarding Bluebay Homes, their housing program on Rota, which they are looking at relocating from Songsong to Sinapalo.

According to corporate director Jesse Palacios, 150 Rota residents were asked about their housing preferences.

Palacios said 103 people said they preferred living in Sinapalo while only 28 chose Songsong and five chose other villages.

As to housing types, 104 preferred single houses, 23 wanted townhouses, eight chose duplex, while six said they want to live in apartments. The respondents also want added amenities such as Internet, playground, and laundry areas.

There are 30 units under the Bluebay Homes project but only 14 are occupied, according to Palacios.

Because the units have already fully depreciated and maintenance cost is expensive, NMHC is looking at building new units in a different location.

"We're looking at it long-term so we're not going to keep on paying a contractor to keep the units livable. It's better to build new units that's going to last 30 years with minimum maintenance," Palacios said.

During their ad-hoc meeting last month, Palacios said they talked about selling the property in Songsong to fund the new construction. However, they still need to clarify with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development the process that they need to undertake with regards to the transition.

"The board wants the move to take place but we need the approval of HUD first because we have a contract with them," Palacios said.

NMHC has 17 years remaining on its 20-year contract with HUD.

Palacios said they are looking at transferring to Sinapalo because of the shift in population on Rota. Some of the government offices are also more accessible for their tenants from there, especially for those who don't have a means of transportation.

"We already have a piece of property assigned to us by [the Department of] Public Lands in Sinapalo," said Palacios. It is 30,000 square meters in size.

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MCS sets traffic, parking accommodations for Jan. 12

Memorial and funeral services for the late governor Eloy S. Inos, which are scheduled for Tuesday, Jan. 12, is expected to bring in a large crowd of dignitaries and the general public to pay their respects.

Anticipating the impact that this will have on parking and traffic, Mount Carmel School has worked with the Office of the Governor and the Department of Public Safety to develop parking and traffic accommodations for that day in order to ensure the safety of everyone in and around the school and Mount Carmel Cathedral. These accommodations are outlined in the map. All drivers must follow these traffic and parking accommodations.

Note that DPS officers will assist the school throughout that day to enforce these accommodations. Also, note that on that instead of the usual 7:30am to 3pm schedule, the school day will run from 8am to 2pm on Tuesday, Jan. 12. This adjusted schedule will alleviate traffic congestion by avoiding time conflicts between memorial/funeral services and the school schedule.

"We trust that these accommodations will help keep all of us safe on what will surely be a sad but busy day. Should you have any questions about these accommodations, feel free to contact us at the school," said MCS principal Galvin Deleon Guerrero. ***(MCS)***

NO MCS PARKING/TRAFFIC
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From Shirley's to edge of Korean Catholic Church
NO PARKING
Drop-off and pick-up only; gates will be closed 8:30-1:30
MCS ONLY PARKING
Must have MCS issued parking pass.
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Additional Notes:
- Adjusted school schedule (8:00 am—2:00 pm, Tuesday schedule cutting into 6th period, dropping 7th period)
- Morning tardies will be excused on this day.
- NO INTERCOM ANNOUNCEMENTS on this day.
- DRIVERS SHOULD NOT PARK AND LEAVE THEIR VEHICLES UNATTENDED DURING PICK-UP AND DROP-OFF times.
- All drivers are advised to be extra cautious and drive safely.

PRESENTS FOR THE NEW YEAR

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Saipan Unity Lions Club distributed gifts of school supplies to the children of Tanapag last Sunday at the Sta. Remedios Church. The organization was able to give away 80 packs of assorted supplies.

Weekend Food Fair!
Indulge in a festive evening of local and international cuisines.
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A HEALTHY 2016

Playing Sports = Active Lifestyle

People who know me know that I love sports. It is that passion that inspired me to promote soccer and other sports in the CNMI. That is also why Tan Holdings built the TSL Sports Complex to encourage more people to get into sports.

Still, I want to do more—to encourage more people to become active and commit to a healthier lifestyle. A "Healthy Community" is a beautiful idea but we must all take that extra step to make it happen.

In line with this, I am making a personal commitment this year to support and strengthen programs that will improve the health of our community. Tan Holdings and the Tan Siu Lin Foundation will be launching a number of programs that will focus on getting everyone to become active. It is my hope that these initiatives will lead to a healthier CNMI community in the long run, one that we can all be proud to call home.

A "Healthy New Year" to everyone!

Jerry Tan

Tan Holdings

Tan Siu Lin Foundation

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS

Happy birthday to my Daddy, TJ Kaipat, who will be celebrating his birthday on Sunday, Jan. 10, 2015! Thank you for everything you›ve done for me. May you continue to work hard and buy me toy gun, fire truck and everything else. I love you forever! Greetings come from your one and only son, RickyJay Isaiah Kaipat.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Advanced happy birthday to Tracy Lynn Del Rosario, who celebrates her birthday tomorrow, Jan. 9! Despite everything that has happened recently, you still deserved to be recognized and celebrated! Cheers to you and many more wonderful and fabulous years ahead. Love Always, The Committee!

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Advanced happy birthday to Arisa "Ace" Sakai-Peters, who celebrates her birthday tomorrow, Jan. 9. Here's to hoping all your birthday dreams and wishes come true! Cheers to you and many more years to come! Love always, your Angel BFF Charisma.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Belated happy birthday greetings go out to Angie Teregeyo, who celebrated her birthday on Jan. 7! Cheers to you, babe, and here's to many more birthdays to come! Much love coming out from your SVES Canary crew and your babe, Charisma.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy 2nd birthday to Ivy Sierra! Sending you smiles for every moment of your special day. Have a wonderful time! We love you! Greetings come from Kuya Bryant, Kuya Ivan, and Kuya Bobby.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy birthday to Janelle Santiago! Wishing you good health, happiness and more blessings. Cheers to another year of adventures. Greetings from the Kisa-Camacho family.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

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COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION SCHEDULE OF ELECTRIC CHARGES AND RATES

By order of the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission, CUC is authorized to adjust the Fuel Adjustment Charge, previously known as Levelized Energy Adjustment Clause or LEAC, depending on the price of oil. Adjustments are made when the "Mean of Platts Singapore" monthly pricing equals or exceeds a 4.5% differential of the average per gallon cost of fuel used in the calculation of the Fuel Adjustment Charge. Due to a decrease of the average fuel price greater than the approved differential, CUC will adjust the fuel-charge by 16.40%. Accordingly, the Fuel Adjustment Charge has decreased from $0.14445 per kWh to $0.12076 per kWh effective January 1, 2016.

BASE RATES

		RESIDENTIAL	COMMERCIAL	GOVERNMENT	MP*
1	Monthly Customer Charge	$ 7.00	$ 10.00	$ 10.00	$ 9.06
2	Base Rates Per kWh:				
	KWH LEVELS				
	1) 1 to 350	$ 0.0210	$ 0.1130	$ 0.1240	$ 0.1070
	2) 351 to 1,200	$ 0.0970	$ 0.1130	$ 0.1240	$ 0.1070
	3) 1,201 and over	$ 0.1580	$ 0.1130	$ 0.1240	$ 0.1070
3	Public Law 16-7 Credit (Rebate)				
	Per kWh -- all usage	$ (0.0230)	N/A	N/A	N/A

*Municipal Pumping

FUEL ADJUSTMENT CHARGE or FAC (Previously known as Levelized Energy Adjustment Clause or LEAC)

	RESIDENTIAL	COMMERCIAL	GOVERNMENT	MP*
Current FAC (Effective 01/01/16)	$ 0.12076	$ 0.12076	$ 0.12076	$ 0.12076
Previous FAC (Effective 09/01/15 - 12/31/15)	$ 0.14445	$ 0.14445	$ 0.14445	$ 0.14445

*Municipal Pumping

PUBLIC STREETLIGHTING AND PRIVATE AREA LIGHTING TARIFF

Availability: Applicable to public outdoor streetlighting service and private area lighting where CUC owns, maintains andvoperates such facilities.

Energy Charge: The Energy Charge is the kWh multiplied by the sum of the applicable Electric Base Rate and the Fuel Adjustment Charge.

Fixture Charge: See below.

	FIXTURE TYPE	WATTS	KWH/MONTH	FIXTURE CHARGE PER MONTH
1	Long Arm	250	101	$ 11.67
2	Short Arm	175	71	$ 8.33
3	LED	140	57	$ 10.83

ELECTRIC NON-RATE FEES

1	Late Charge (monthly)	1% of Past Due
2	NSF Check / Returned Check Charge	$ 40.00
3	Convenience Fee (for pay-by-phone and online payments)	$ 1.50
4	Unauthorized Connection	$ 550.00
5	Reconnection at the Pole	$ 200.00
6	Investigation (no charge for first two investigations)	$ 210.00
7	Disconnection Notice	$ 15.00
8	Meter Change Out	$ 95.00
9	New Service - Single Phase	$ 135.00
10	Inspection of Service (no charge for first two inspections)	$ 90.00
11	Meter Test - Single Phase	$ 75.00
12	Meter Test - Three Phase	$ 110.00
13	Disconnection at the Meter	$ 45.00
14	Reconnection at the Meter	$ 60.00

Updated January 2016

CUC Call Center: 'We're here to serve'

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
CUC Acting Call Center manager Alain Nunez and Senior Dispatch Operator and Call Center supervisor Elsa Isaac pose inside the CUC Customer Call Center.

It only takes seconds for the ringing to begin when the islands of Saipan, Tinian and Rota experience interruptions in their essential services. Whether answering questions about power, water or wastewater, the men and women who answer the phones for the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s 24-hour Customer Call Center stand ready to take your call.

The CUC Call Center opened in 2014, staffed entirely with locally hired employees to serve customers around the clock. By doing so, the utility created a team of operators solely responsible for addressing CUC customers, armed with internal policies and procedures. The move also cut costs incurred for similar services provided by outside vendors.

"The main function of the call center is dealing with the flow of information, whether from the community to our staff or vice-versa," says CUC acting Call Center manager Alain Nunez. "When the community calls to report a problem, we gather as much information as possible and relay that information to the division best equipped to address the issue. We strive to deliver the latest and most accurate information about power, water and wastewater."

While Nunez appreciates what his team has accomplished in the past year and a half, he continues to address improvements within his department based on community feedback.

"We recognize the challenges we've faced and continue to face with our internal communication, but we're making efforts to address these issues by implementing steps to improve the customer experience," he said.

CUC Call Center personnel will regularly meet with department managers to provide community feedback and to develop operational knowledge that will enable operators to better communicate information to customers.

Acting CUC executive director Gary Camacho said the call center has come a long way in a short amount of time but there is still much to do.

"As with every department at CUC, our call center will continue to be a work in progress as we strive to improve our utility," Camacho said. "As we identify challenges, we come together to develop and implement solutions to move us forward."

The call center recently added six new members to reinforce the team. Nunez makes it a part of orientation to take the new operators on a tour of all CUC facilities to provide them with a face-to-face meeting with the voices they'll hear on the other end of the line.

CUC's Senior Dispatch Operator and Call Center supervisor Elsa Isaac came to the utility from the private sector in 2014. Her experience with the IT&E Customer Care Center made her the perfect fit for CUC.

As an experienced call center employee, Isaac understands the important role she and her coworkers serve as the first point of contact for customers when problems arise.

"Even though you don't get to see us, we're almost like the face of CUC," she said.

While prospective employees can apply for any number of positions within the utility, Isaac said beginning her career in the call center provided her with valuable insight into CUC's operations.

"The call center is a great department. You get customer service skills, technical skills—experience you can use anywhere in life. If people want to start a career with CUC, I think they should start with the call center because they'll get an idea of how everything works," she said.

As a result, Isaac's perception of what it takes to restore essential services has changed dramatically.

"Now I know how much effort they put into the field," she said. "I thought there were only troubleshooters who addressed issues but now I know we have engineers, plumbers, electricians, operators, inspectors, surveyors and line crew. I thought it was just one group but there are so many people involved." ***(CUC***

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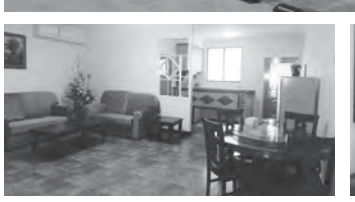
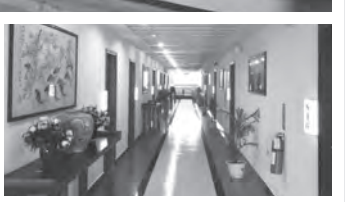
One Bedroom//Two Bed//No Kitchen 一室两床不带厨房	$99.00	$60.00
One Bedroom//Two Bed//with Kitchen 一室两床带厨房	$99.00	$60.00
Two Bedroom//with Kitchen 两室一厅	$109.00	$70.00
Three Bedroom//with Kitchen 三室一厅	$119.00	$70.00

NOTE:This prices do not include breakfast.
此房价不含早餐.

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For reservations or inquiries, please call (670) 235-6667/68/69/70

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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EDITORIAL

Obama's decision to tighten gun rules long overdue

Mind your own business. That's the message that President Barack Obama is rightly sending to unlicensed gun sellers who have long flouted federal law with a wink. Now Washington will stop winking back.

Of the new gun policies that Obama announced this week, the most important is his directive to the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, or the ATF, to clarify what it means to be "engaged in the business" of selling guns. This phrase, which comes from a 1986 law, matters because only those who regularly buy and resell firearms are required to obtain a sales license and conduct background checks on all buyers. Individuals who make only "occasional sales" from their personal collections are exempt.

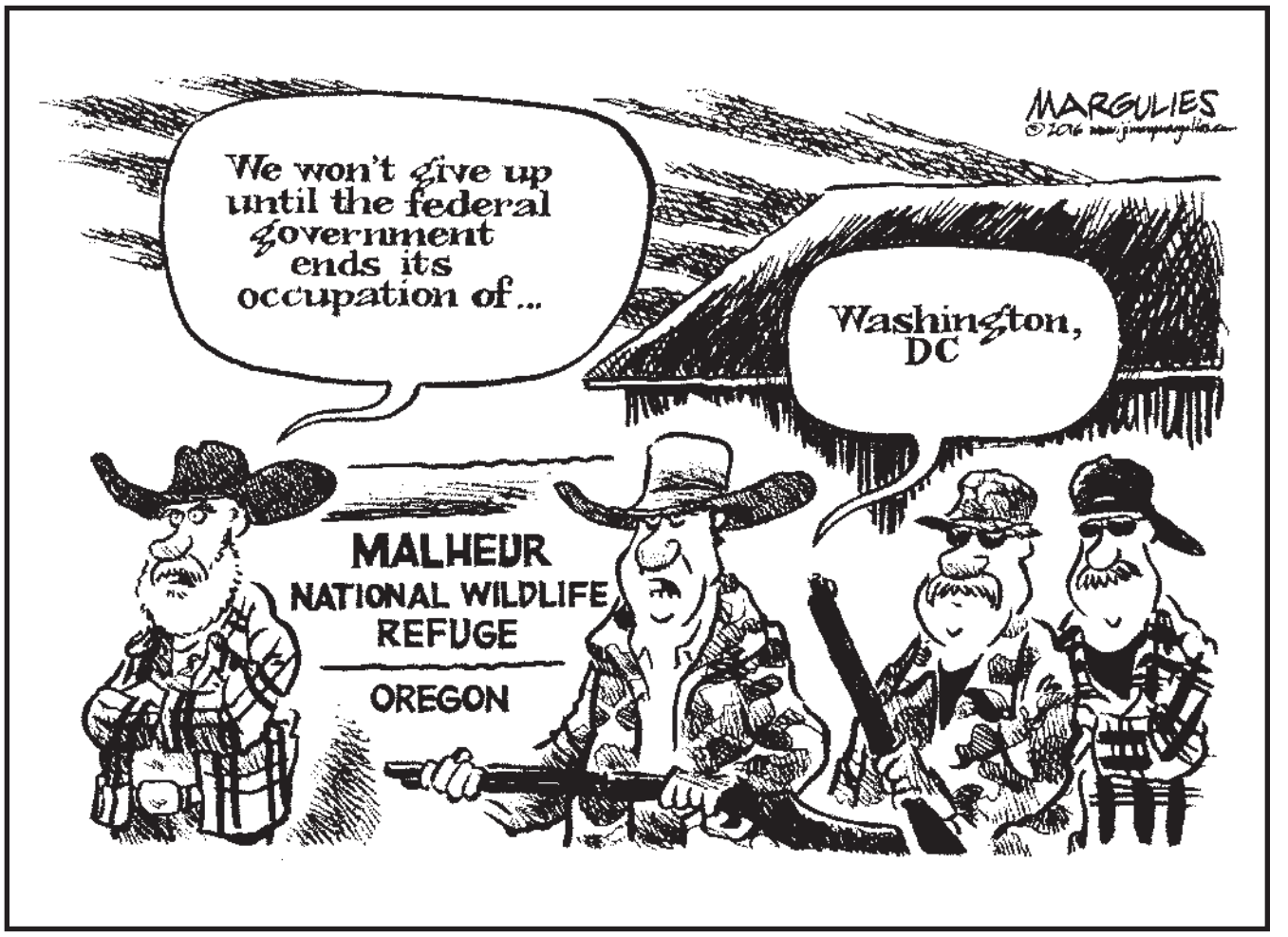
Unfortunately, the ATF has—under both Democratic and Republican presidents—allowed the phrase "occasional sales" to mean almost anything, which has rendered the background check system optional. Those who want to avoid a check can easily buy a new gun through an unlicensed vendor. A 2015 report by Everytown For Gun Safety (co-founded by Michael R. Bloomberg, majority owner of Bloomberg LP) found that a small group of unlicensed sellers were offering guns in high volumes—more than 25 guns a year, and as many as 150—and the majority of those vendors met additional indications of illegally "engaging in the business."

This sprawling universe of underground dealers fuels criminal activity by making it easy for felons and other dangerous people to buy guns and for traffickers to avoid detection. A gun purchased without a background check cannot be traced back to the buyer if it is recovered in a crime.

The best way to bring underground sellers into the regulated market's background check system is through legislation. But with Congress refusing to take up the issue, executive action is the next best thing. Still, it would have been better had Obama directed the ATF to formally define the meaning of "occasional sales." Instead, the ATF will merely provide guidance to unlicensed gun sellers about what it means to be in compliance with the law. It remains to be seen how much weight such guidance will carry with sellers—or with judges and juries.

Polls consistently show that the vast majority of Americans, including gun owners, support background checks for all gun sales. As the president acknowledged on Tuesday, that's not going to happen during his presidency. Narrowing the "occasional sales" loophole is a start—a small but useful step that may, unfortunately, prove to be Obama's most significant legacy on gun safety.

(c)2016 Bloomberg News



Chaos and relativity

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime Vergara previously taught at SVES in the CNMI. A peripatetic pedagogue, he last taught in China but makes Honolulu, Shenyang, and Saipan home. He can be reached at pinoypanda2031@aol.com. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the Saipan Tribune.

Nope. I did not take a sudden liking to physics. In fact, our academic field of study was on world religions, and even on that, I paid little attention as civil rights and the anti-Vietnam protests raged in continental U.S. while I was poring over texts.

Between departures from Saipan to my return in 14 days, I saw chaos and relativity in close quarters. I began at Asiana (OZ) that took me to *Hanguk*. I was told to check in two-and-a-half hours before departure time. The flight was always full being the sole carrier to my destination.

The line into the security booths was a chatterbox of Zhonghua (Chinese), Nippongo (Japanese), and Hangul (Korean), with a spattering of English. Indo-Malay based native Chamorro and Carolinian were not to be heard, save among the airport guides. I was the lone Pinas.

A ground lady escorted us halfway past the long line. I suspect that designated places for passengers of the three sequential flights leaving the airport were assigned. I was headed for cold *Dong Bei* so I wore a long-sleeved undershirt of the kind normally worn by construction workers, under another long-sleeved dress shirt. The inside was not made of cotton of our familiar but of polyester, inexpensively sold in outlets. It was warm all right but I was still in the tropics.

Naming the situation through chaos (in mathematics) was more realistic than politely calling it relativity (physics); the former incorporates the emotive response of the affected party.

At the Saipan airport, security checked documents, opened an extra line for elders and families with children only. I asked the officer at the security booth if I qualified to join the elders, and he looked at my passport, saw my age to be 70, and directed me to join the newly opened line. When I got to the x-ray machine, the lady said that the elders' rule was for those 75 and older. I was sent back to the rest of the crowd.

I had been on crackers and cheese diet since November and was delighted to see that 5 kilos had come off my weight. When I got past to where one took off shoes and belt, I walked into the pat-down section and the guy told me to raise my arms. That's when the pants without the belt slid down. Now, those who were watching gave a quiet smirk, and if the pants were that loose, I lost considerable weight. So I was not embarrassed. I only wished I was wearing long johns!

When the designated time to board arrived, passengers formed a line at the gate, though the scheduled flight arrived 30 minutes late. We dutifully stood on line until the crew got the plane ready. Infants wailed in their mothers' arms. The first food tray that came down the aisle once the plane was aloft was full of Gerber jars. Yup, the Gerber generation got the stewards' attention first. It was an hour later before I was asked to choose between chicken porridge and hotdog pancakes. A *Chihuahua*-sized hotdog came with my pancakes!

We arrived at Incheon 36 minutes before my connecting flight to Dalian. I had to retrieve a boarding pass at a transfer desk. I quit smoking eons before and with two computers in a backpack plus a camera with accessories, the run to the gate taxed the lungs and trembled the knees, but I made it ahead of six other passengers. The flight to Dalian was bursting at the seams. Seated in 42D, which along with E in the midsection, I was between two ladies who thought my being in China made it obligatory that I spoke rudimentary Chinese. We didn't exchange a word during the two-hour flight.

Arriving later than the earlier forecast, I hightailed it from the Dalian airport to the North Railway Station. A friend's niece was supposed to meet a luggage she sent. She didn't show up so I lugged the bag into the train bound for Shenyang.

The relativity of chaos frenzied. At security, the guard asked me to open one of the bags and the zipper broke. So the help got tape (cost me 5rmb) and by the time the bag was wrapped, the train was loading on the other side of a huge station so one of the guys got his cart and took my two pieces of luggage plus two small ones (20rmb/$3 for two pieces and the small ones, pro bono, he said) and got me into the train on time. I will not reduce the nature of human transactions into a physics formula. I could never decipher Einstein's $e=mc^2$ anyway, and this relativity was chaos in motion.

The last time I took the Dalian-Shenyang train, I was unloaded at the North Station, but this time the train stopped only in the South on its way to Changchun and Harbin. The station was two times the distance to my home.

The taxi driver tried to negotiate a price, as is the custom; I pay meter readings, I said. He took a second passenger who got off before I did and paid the meter. Then the taxi driver flagged it up and said, he will take me to where I was going at the same price. Chaos got personal, arriving at 9pm in the dark without a key to the apartment door. Einstein at Princeton would have smiled.

Sweet '16

By ED STEPHENS
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Visit Ed Stephens Jr. at EdStephensJr.com. His column runs every Friday.

Thinking about healthy habits in the new year? January has no shortage of health-related news items, so just to get the ball rolling I'm going to share an item from a British newspaper, an item that surely applies as much to Saipan as it does to the Atlantic.

The items comes via Jan. 4 article in the (U.K.) *Telegraph*: "Children aged 5 eating own weight in sugar each year as parents urged to check products with free app."

Well, apps, or no apps, it's not only British kids who are on the sugar express, of course. It's just a part of modern life.

I was curious about how much sugar Americans consume. What we call "sugar" is a broad term, as it turns out, and the sweeteners tallied include cane and beet sugar, high fructose corn syrup, glucose, and dextrose.

Here's some good data from a U.S. Department of Agriculture report, "Sugar and Sweeteners Outlook," dated June 18, 2014: "On a per capita basis, U.S. sweetener deliveries for 2013 were 128.3 pounds, down 1.0 pounds from 2012 and 20.6 pounds from the 149.0 pounds in 2000."

On an older report I saw that per capita U.S. sugar consumption rose from 1950 through 2000, but then, as the above quote indicates, there's been a fall from 2000 to 2013.

Anyway, since we're all familiar with the standard heft of 5-pound bags of sugar, they make convenient benchmarks. So we can note that, on average, Americans consume the equivalent of a 5-pound bag every two weeks.

Seen in those terms, that seems like a lot of sugar to me.

If you want to get really detailed about it, you can shave the data down by accounting for things like spoilage that drive a wedge between sugar that is sold for consumption and sugar that is actually ingested. So "consumption" to an economist, and to a public health expert, would probably have different meanings here, as the economist considers the transaction, but the health expert would be more concerned about the actual ingestion.

Of course, for most of us, the important thing isn't fancy data about national averages, but is, instead, how much of the stuff we're shoveling into our yappers. It's not an easy thing to know. Sugar has a knack for sneaking in over the transom.

Here's an example of how sneaky it can be: When I was in college, the standard dash-to-class breakfast was two small containers of yogurt and a large glass of orange juice. I'll note that eggs, butter, and fat (such as bacon has) were considered big no-no's at the time. So this was a case where convenience and conventional wisdom seemed magically aligned.

Like all magic, of course, there was an illusion at work. During one of my annual and random looks at labels, I eventually realized that my "healthy" quasi-breakfast carried a payload of 85 grams of sugar.

A gram doesn't mean anything to me. I can't picture it. So I'll revert to my 5-pound bag benchmark and note that a daily dose of 85 grams of sugar adds up to more than one of those bags every month. The tally is 5.6 pounds in 30 days. Wow.

Meanwhile, since college, it seems that attitudes toward eggs, butter, and bacon-fat have softened, at least in some circles, while sugar seems to get sharper scrutiny across the board.

Of course, I'm no health expert, I'm just a slob trying to get by in life without being too stupid about things. When it comes to sugar, then, over the decades I've eased toward giving it a bit of a look instead of a blank check.

When I'm bored and don't have any money to buy lottery tickets, I'll reach for my calculator to put fuzzy things ("grams per serving") into more meaningful terms ("5-pound bags per month"). Yep, the little things sure do add up, and the results carry some heft when they're put in familiar terms.

I try to swing by this subject once a year or so in this space. It's an issue that deserves regular scrutiny. After all, Saipan and sugar have a long history together, both on the production, and on the consumption, sides of the equation.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

An open letter to Kilili

This is in response to Honorable Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan's Dec. 5, 2015, statement regarding gun control in the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands.

Dear Sir: I read your statement with dismay and alarm regarding your position on the ongoing civil rights lawsuit regarding the CNMI's unconstitutional ban on armed self-defense and the outright denial of every CNMI resident's rights, as protected by our Second Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. I felt dismay at an apparent lack of understanding demonstrated in those statements made pertaining to both the nature and applicability of our natural rights as codified in the U.S. Constitution, and the subject of armed self-defense in general. It was further disappointing to read false assumptions, and conclusions jumped to regarding the nature of this lawsuit and its implications.

Do you remember the oath you took to become a member of the U.S. House of Representatives? "I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that *I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same;* that I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; and that I will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which I am about to enter: *So help me God.*"

When we elected you to represent us in the U.S. House of representatives, you made a promise to uphold the law of the land, and it is a promise that I as a taxpayer expect our elected servants to keep.

Your statement pledging to introduce legislation to nullify the 2nd Amendment of the U.S. Constitution in the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands—as adopted in Article 501 of the CNMI Covenant through a plebiscite vote, along with the other portions of the Bill of Rights—is at its core a bold-faced contradiction of that oath you took.

This begs the question: Which of the other God-given natural rights of all people living under the flag of the United States do you or others elected to serve us believe should also be denied? What is next? Our freedom of speech? Freedom of religion? Right to a lawyer if accused of a crime?

In the statements, there was much made of the idea that we in the Northern Marianas are treated as second-class citizens, that we are denied a right to representation within the federal system of the United States. And on the whole, our inability to vote in presidential elections and the non-voting status of our representative in Congress are valid complaints, which in principle I tend to agree with. That said, we are free of the burden of federal taxation while reaping the benefits of federal tax dollars being apportioned to our islands…but that is another conversation.

How ironic it is that in one breath there is a lament of our mistreatment by the federal government in the denial of certain rights of representation for the government of the CNMI, to be used as a justification to deny the rights of individual citizens!

Your Dec. 5th statement brings up the rights of the people of the CNMI several times. An issue that seems to be confused in your statement is that the bill of rights outlines the rights of the people as individuals, not collectively as the government. Our republic is based on that concept. Where the general will of the majority is balanced with the rights of the minority, be it the right of gay people to marry, Muslims to build a mosque, Chamorros to preserve their language, or individual citizens to be armed for the purpose of self-defense.

I understand that there is a deep prejudice and fear in many people here in the CNMI against the concept of individual citi-

See LETTER on Page 17

Affluenza: New disease!

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.*

When local politicians embrace "affluenza," representation shifts from "we the people" to the "we few" elitist group. Affluenza is a phenomenon where politicians ignore the golden rules because "we have money, we make the rules."

Notice, most of their actions in terms of policy are catered to the whims of their rich partners, ignoring due diligence and needs of their people. It's a very confounding and unholy alliance. It makes the case to throw the bums out this midterm election. There's no compelling reason to keep any of them. Call it "nose-end sight" blurred by greed!

The alienation created a two-tiered community: the elected elite on the hill and the poor in the villages. The new relationship leaves "we the people" skeptical that our former representatives are doing the right things by doing them right. Affluenza limits their focus to the whims of their new partners. The indigenous people are no longer their partners!

As noted in former NMI Supreme Court justice Jose S. Dela Cruz's recent letter, something's gone awfully wrong in paradise. The "elected elite" (and I refuse use of the term leadership given that it's non-existent) has joined hands with rich investors. They simply trash the interest of the people that placed them in office. They've given away the company store while filling their garage with tons of freebies from their new lords.

To illustrate a point: A year or so ago the Legislature approved a single-license casino law even against the voice of "we the people" in two plebiscites where we shot it down resoundingly. It's a tale of arrogance among the elected elite, trashing the open decision of their people. It's the scrapping of integrity compromising trust in their woefully shortsighted disposition on issues of importance.

Leadership vacuum emerged. It is a dangerous path where corruption trails the loss of integrity. In the process, hubris and arrogance sets in. They push the poor closer to the edge of the cliff of egregious hardship. Their representatives settle for dollar a beer, openly sleepwalking that salaries and wages have remained the same for 14 long years. Did they do anything concrete to ease the hardship among villagers?

Playing the wrong political scheme against your very own people is an egregious disposition you'd have to eventually be held accountable for. Didn't we recently see the fate of a sitting governor and others who were shown the path to permanent oblivion for chancing fiat? It's inherent firmly in the palms of our hands. Once more it's time to warm up for major change.

Yes, I am in agreement with former justice Dela Cruz that we shift gears beginning this midterm election to reinstate a government of laws in the NMI. Let's eradicate affluenza once and for all! Si JR.

Beyond borders

In the last election, a political candidate paid a visit to feel my personal pulse on issues. It became apparent that he was clueless of issues I've discussed in this corner of the paper. Moreover, it shows he hardly reads vital materials beyond the two papers. Even his reading comprehension was suspect that I find woefully troubling. And he wants to formulate policies for the people?

Understandably, there's nothing wrong localizing issues that focus on improving the livelihood of villagers. But this isn't happening at all. If policymakers never succeeded at home, how could they read beyond our superficial borders to understand the dynamics of regional economic ventures and their relationship to the NMI?

The elected elite must learn to read and understand how the NMI handles the struggle to cope, and cope well, with a fast-changing world. It isn't only timely but vital to know what's happening beyond our boundaries. It must develop the capacity to understand globally yet act locally, translating global dynamics to local setting. The lack of this capacity triggers turbulence at home.

Whatever happened to the use of their true north comprised of humility, integrity, and compassion for others?

Discipline of yore

An unsuspecting friend sits alone at a family party. He was there since morning helping out in the kitchen. He needed some fresh air when we met.

He related he misses the days of yore when life was simple on these isles. He was grateful for parents who were strong disciplinarians. He added how great it was learning how to "earn our dues young as we were then."

"I remember working at the family farm from sunrise to sunset," he said. "But my dad wanted us to learn good work ethics including working with others like family members", he related. "It drove home a sense of humility and integrity as we honed the value of honest work."

"We had to study in makeshift lantern because we had no electricity, work at the farm plus hunting and fishing too," he added. "We worked until we were bone tired."

"We had strong family values and never had to deal with problems like the destruction of heavy drugs or rely on USDA for our daily sustenance," he related. In a nutshell he did a replay of life in the '50s and '60s when the community was especially caring for the welfare of others.

"Our parents made sure we benefit from spiritual development that started with catechism after school," he said. "What we learned in those classes informed us what is right and wrong."

"The strong discipline in households has faded slowly where permissiveness took over," he pointed out. He said it's time for families to revisit the benefits of strong parental discipline.

"Kids are born without respect, meaning they must be taught what the term entails." It brings an understanding how to respect the rights of others in our community.

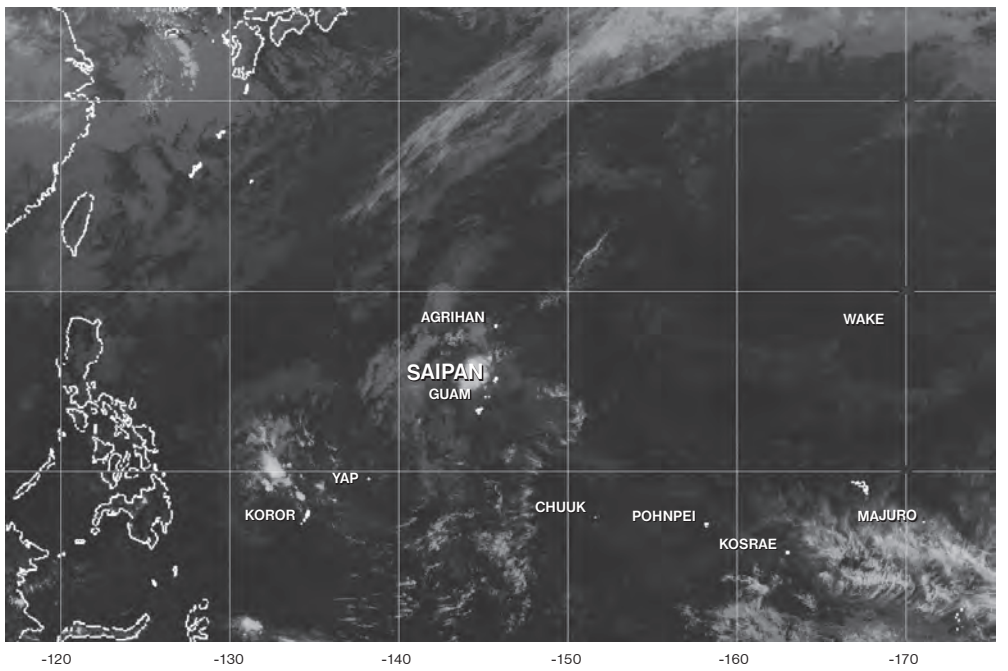
"It's one aspect of cultural pedagogy that we must teach our children and it begins at home."

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Partly sunny with scattered showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲85º ▼74º	▲86º ▼74º	▲86º ▼74º	▲86º ▼74º	▲86º ▼74º

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, THURSDAY, JANUARY 7, 2016
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A cold front extends southwestward from 25N139E to beyond 130E at 21N. Cloudiness and scattered showers are evident along the front and northward to beyond 25N. This area lies southeast of Okinawa. Trade-wind disturbances are generating scattered showers northwest of Koror between 8N and 13N from 130E to 135E and west of the Marianas between 12N and 16N from 138E to 142E. Another trade-wind disturbance is causing scattered showers over Guam, Rota, Tinian and Saipan between 12N and 16N from 144E to 150E. A near-equatorial trough stretches east-southeastward from 5N130E to 3N145E then eastward to beyond the date line at 2N. Scattered showers are seen south of Kosrae and over Tarawa south of a line from 2N162E to 3N168E to 1n180. Scattered showers are occurring southeast of Kwajalein and over Majuro within 80 miles of a line from 7N170E to 5N178E.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

Micronesia

Guam And Rota	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼78
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲88	▼77
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼77
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼80
Pohnpei	Partly Cloudy	▲86	▼78
Kosrae	Mostly Cloudy	▲84	▼79
Majuro	Mostly Cloudy	▲84	▼79

Around the Globe

Auckland	Thunderstorms	▲76	▼65
Beijing	Sunny	▲35	▼15
Hong Kong	Sunny	▲68	▼62
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	▲83	▼69
London	Showers	▲49	▼39
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲57	▼41
Manila	Mostly Sunny	▲88	▼73
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲75	▼58
Miami	Mostly Sunny	▲78	▼67
New York	Partly Cloudy	▲46	▼33
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	▲49	▼39
Paris	Mostly Cloudy	▲48	▼39
Pusan	Partly Cloudy	▲45	▼28
Rome	Partly Cloudy	▲63	▼55
Salem	Mostly Sunny	▲47	▼31
San Francisco	Showers	▲55	▼45
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	▲37	▼22
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	▲53	▼38
Washington, DC	Cloudy	▲43	▼32

NMI CRIME STOPPERS
Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Tides

Saipan Harbor

12:31 AM	Today	Low Tide:	-0.2 Feet
7:26 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
12:40 PM	Today	Low Tide:	1.1 Feet
5:47 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:45 AM	6:02 PM
Saturday	6:45 AM	6:02 PM
Sunday	6:46 AM	6:03 PM
Monday	6:46 AM	6:03 PM
Tuesday	6:46 AM	6:04PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	4:44 AM	4:27 PM
Saturday	5:38 AM	5:20 PM
Sunday	6:31 AM	6:17 PM
Monday	7:24 AM	7:14 PM
Tuesday	8:15 AM	8:12 PM

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF DECEMBER 4, 2015

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA2924	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA2922	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA2921	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota
UA2920	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6
UA2928	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily
UA2926	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA2923	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA2925	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA2921	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA2920	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota
UA2927	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily
UA2929	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA2921	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA2920	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA2921	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA2920	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL297	4:20pm	7:10pm	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:35am	3:10pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ626	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ628	3:50am	7:40am	Daily
7C3403	4:35am	8:30am	Daily
7C3401	4:30pm	8:25pm	Daily

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3402	10:10am	3:30pm	Daily
OZ625	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
OZ627	9:30pm	2:50am+1	Daily
7C3404	10:10pm	3:30am+1	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	1:50am+1	3, 6

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	5:30am	3, 5, 7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:30pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/701	2:10am	11:15am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	11:15am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA2924/191	4:15am	9:00am	3, 6 via GUM
UA2924/PR111	4:15am	9:20am	1, 2, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA2924/183	4:15am	9:30pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA2924/183	4:15am	9:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA2922/183	8:40am	9:30pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA2922/183	8:40am	9:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA2921/183	1:30pm	9:30pm	5 via Rota-GUM
UA2921/183	1:30pm	9:50pm	1, 4, 7 via Rota-GUM
UA5038/183	2:20pm	9:30pm	2 via GUM
UA5038/183	2:20pm	9:50pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA5072/191	9:50pm	7:20am+1	1, 6 via GUM

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA190/2929	9:55am	9:20pm	2, 6, 7 via GUM
UA190/2929	10:00am	9:20pm	3 via GUM
OZ702/625	12:30pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:30pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ702/627	12:30pm	2:50am+1	Daily via ICN
PR110/UA2925	10:05pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/2925	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/2921	10:55pm	1:00pm+1	3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/2920	10:55pm	1:50pm+1	1 via GUM-Rota
UA184/2927	10:55pm	5:35pm+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/2929	10:55pm	9:20pm+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/2925	11:59pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM
UA184/2920	11:59pm	1:50pm+1	2, 5 via GUM-Rota
UA184/2927	11:59pm	5:35pm+1	2, 5 via GUM
UA184/2929	11:59pm	9:20pm+1	2, 5 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

OZ626/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ628/721	3:50am	12:50am	Daily via ICN
UA2924/159	4:15am	10:35pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA2922/159	8:40am	10:35pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA2921/159	1:30pm	10:35pm	1, 5 via Rota-GUM
UA2920/159	2:20pm	10:35pm	3, 6 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ724/627	2:20pm	2:50am+1	Daily via ICN
UA116/2925	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA116/2921	10:55pm	1:00pm+1	3, 6 via GUM
UA116/2920	10:55pm	1:50pm+1	1, 5 via GUM-Rota
UA116/2927	10:55pm	5:35pm+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA116/2929	10:55pm	9:20pm+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; 7C: Jeju AirETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
6:30AM	6:45AM	Mon, Tue,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
12:30NN	12:45NN	Daily
1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
12:00NN	12:15NN	Daily
1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO ROTA

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:45AM	8:15AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:00PM	4:30PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

ROTA TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:45PM	5:15PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

LETTER

From Page 15

zens owning firearms for the purposes outlined in our 2nd Amendment. To many, this is outside of their life experience and many people fear what they don't understand. The misperception is that somehow our islands will be flooded with unrestricted and uncontrolled weaponry! This is on its face a ridiculous notion—as ridiculous as those notions that caused many southern states in the U.S. to enact Jim Crow laws, ban interracial marriage, and segregate schools.

Similar arguments made in your statement about this current federal court case being against the will of the "people" have been made throughout history by men like George C Wallace in order to block the rights of other people based on the prejudice and fear of a perceived majority. The same types arguments to deprive Americans of their constitutionally protected civil rights have been made to keep gay people from being able to marry, to keep American Indians from practicing their religions and speaking their languages, and putting Japanese-Americans into concentration camps during WWII.

Your statement describes the legitimate concerns of citizens like myself regarding violent crime and terrorism. *"With each new mass shooting in the United States I have grown more concerned that the people I represent have no means to protect themselves and their families from such acts of violence."* That is true...people you represent have been denied those means by an unconstitutional set of laws.

In places where these laws do not exist, it is proven statistically that there is less violence and less crime! First off, mass shootings are in fact extremely rare, despite the sensational reporting of these dramatic events. The US DOJ has commissioned a study on this (Blair, J. Pete, and Schweit, Katherine W. (2014). *A Study of Active Shooter Incidents, 2000 - 2013*. Texas State University and Federal Bureau of Investigation, U.S. Department of Justice, Washington D.C. 2014), available online for free at:

https://www.fbi.gov/news/stories/2014/september/fbi-releases-study-on-active-shooter-incidents/pdfs/a-study-of-active-shooter-incidents-in-the-u.s.-between-2000-and-2013.

It is true that there have been 160 active shooter incidents between 2000 and 2013 nationwide including the one on Saipan in 2009. (Blair et al. 1014), and there have been 1,043 casualties, including 486 deaths from mass shootings. How many Americans (including the people of the CNMI) have been wrongfully killed by police officers in the same amount of time? An interesting side note to these numbers is that on average, the number of people killed in a mass shooting where it is stopped by the police is 14.29. On the other hand, the average number of people killed in a mass shooting where an armed citizen stops the attack is 2.33! This is because the average response time for the police is measured in minutes, whereas the response time for a lawful concealed carry permit holder responding to an assault is measured in seconds. Despite this fact, there are many who believe that only the police and soldiers should be armed. That said, I recall seeing a film where police and soldiers were the only ones allowed to be armed; it was called *Schindler's List*!

On the same note, one thing that is disturbing is that there are laws in only 14 states and no federal law that prevents felons from becoming police officers, whereas it is already a federal law that anyone with a felony conviction or even a misdemeanor for domestic violence cannot own a firearm. That said, I agree with the law against owning a gun for those convicted of crimes; it makes sense. But if a convicted felon can't own a firearm as a civilian, why would anybody want a convicted felon becoming an armed police officer?

Don't get me wrong…I have the utmost respect for law enforcement officers as a general rule. I have relatives and friends who wear or have worn a badge. One thing I learned in the military was the importance of our Constitution and the protection of the rights codified within as a man who swore an oath to protect and defend it. An oath similar to the one you took when you became our representative in D.C.

You said in your Dec. 5 statement the following: *Yes, they could all arm themselves. But, as President Reagan said of this policy of mutual destruction: 'Is there either logic or morality in believing that if one side threatens to kill…our only recourse is to threaten killing…?'*

President Reagan was talking about the United States and the Soviet Union's nuclear weapons proliferation, which has absolutely no bearing on the subject of the right of citizens to armed self-defense. Still the idea of deterrence is a valid one and one of the reasons for our right to keep and bear arms. Criminals are less likely to attack people if there is a good chance that that potential victim can fight back, just as the U.S. having nukes was a deterrent to the Soviets from starting WWIII! That said, I also think it is valid to point out that almost all these mass shootings people are concerned about happen in "gun-free zones."

This brings me to the lawsuit you and many are so concerned about. Again, to read your statement and the statements of many others in the CNMI, I see a narrative full of falsehoods and outlandish conclusions, that when the unconstitutional aspects of the CNMI Weapons Control Act are overturned, somehow there will be guns dumped into the community without any type of reasonable restriction! This is totally ridiculous, and I think you are smart enough to know this!

Your Dec. 5 statement points out the following: *"We have already had one mass shooting in our small community. So even our own local laws do not provide complete protection."*

This is true. Even a total ban on the ownership of handguns and most long guns, and a ban on armed self-defense or carry in the home to affect such self-defense did not provide complete protection! Just as all of the draconian gun laws in California did not stop the San Bernadino shooting, when those two crazy jihadists murdered 14 of their colleagues! Just as the rules banning soldiers from carrying guns on Army bases did not stop the Fort Hood shootings and so on! None of these draconian gun laws have prevented bad people from getting guns. We just had a crazy woman in Las Vegas run down some 40 pedestrians last weekend, killing several, and in 2013 we had a disturbed young man murder four and injure dozens in Guam with a car and a knife! Yet where is your call to ban cars and knives?

In 2012, the CDC reported on gun violence, followed up by the Pew Research Center in 2013. These reports show that 61 percent of the average 30,000 annual deaths where firearms were the implement used were suicides. On the other hand, according to the FBI Uniform Crime Reporting Program, as cited in the CDC report, it stated that between 2007 and 2011 over 600,000 reported facing an assailant in a defensive situation with a gun and of those only 4 percent of the time the gun was ever fired! That is an average of over 120,000 people defending themselves with a gun. Considering that the number of people murdered with guns last year was 8,100 nationally, with the murder rate dropping, he number of people saved by good guys with guns facing down criminals far outweighs the number of innocent people murdered with guns or those who are victims of accidents.

The fact is the majority of homicides where firearms are used are a byproduct of the current war on drugs in the form of gang violence and street crime, committed by thugs who couldn't care less about laws! The fact that we have criminals running around the CNMI selling ice and packing pistols is testament to this!

In your statement of Dec. 5, you said: *"The safety and the rights of my constituents should not be held hostage by a national debate in which we cannot fully participate."*

Well, the lawsuit against the unconstitutional gun laws in the CNMI is participation in this national debate, and the people being held hostage are the people of the CNMI, American citizens, who are being denied their civil rights to armed self-defense by a local government that imposes restrictions on its people out of fear and prejudice, making us second-class citizens compared to those living in the rest of the country! Furthermore, the lawsuit challenges the CNMI government's assertion that it can ban the ownership of handguns and restrict most calibers. It challenges the CNMI's ban on armed self-defense and carry in the home—provisions that on their face violate the 2nd Amendment of the Constitution. It does not in any way challenge the CNMI's ability to require background checks for criminals (which I support, by the way). The suit does not challenge the requirement for safety training (which I fully support, and actually feel in its present format as offered by DPS to be inadequate), nor does it in any way enable criminals, insane people, children, or any other person who would pose a danger should they be armed to have a gun! It simply asserts that those of us who are not criminals, should not be denied our rights to self-defense!

That said, Mr. Sablan, I do not expect this letter to sway your opinion. I have come to the conclusion your mind is made up. This is more for the benefit of the people out there who are on the fence on this topic.

Andre Kozij
Capital Hill, Saipan

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Following Information/Documents Required
Property Map/As Built Map/ Total Land Area
If available for existing building showing exact location & building details
Owner Title Information
Owner Asking Price

McDonald's Christmas Party

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Rowena Ulu of the Chalan Pala Arnold Road Store is chosen as the 2015 Employee of the Year.

Rowena Ulu performs a Samoan cultural dance. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Best Dressed Employees are Angelica Darlucio and Joseph Achas.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Garapan Store Employees of the Quarters for 2015 are Kathleen Alcantara and Jamie Rose Bartolome.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Chalan Pale Arnold Rd. Store 2015 Employee of the Quarters are Rowena Ulu, Carihna Joy Solomon, and Odessamery Sansy.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Carihna Joy Solomon and Eliezha May Mendoza.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Angelica Darlucio and Ruthzel Perez are 5 Years Service Award recipients.

Emmanuel L. Vital and Maria E. Ayuyu. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Garapan Store 2015 Employee of the Year Jamir Rose Bartolome and Chalan Pale Arnold Road Store 2015 Employee of the Year Rowena Ulu have their picture taken with McDonald's president and owner Jose C. Ayuyu and owner/operator Marcia E. Ayuyu.

Employees of McDonald's. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Perfect Attendance Awardees are Joseph Achas, Narlou Achas and Gerald Fernando Bautista.

Nation

Oregon tribe: Armed group 'desecrating' their land

BURNS, Ore. (AP)—The leader of an American Indian tribe that regards an Oregon nature preserve as sacred issued a rebuke Wednesday to the armed men who are occupying the property, saying they are not welcome at the snowy bird sanctuary and must leave.

The Burns Paiute tribe was the latest group to speak out against the men, who have taken several buildings at the preserve to protest policies governing the use of federal land in the West.

"The protesters have no right to this land. It belongs to the native people who live here," tribal leader Charlotte Rodrique said.

She spoke at a news conference at the tribe's cultural center, about half-hour drive from Malheur National Wildlife Refuge, which is being occupied by some 20 men led by Ammon Bundy, whose father Cliven was at the center of a standoff in Nevada with federal officials in 2014 over use of public lands.

Ammon Bundy is demanding that the refuge be handed over to locals.

Rodrique said she "had to laugh" at the demand, because she knew Bundy was not talking about giving the land to the tribe.

The 13,700-acre Burns Paiute Reservation is north of this remote town in Oregon sagebrush country. The reservation is separate from the wildlife refuge, but tribal members consider it part of their ancestral land.

As with other tribes, the Burns' Paiute's link to the land is marked by a history of conflict with white settlers and the U.S. government. In the late 1800s, they were forced off a sprawling reservation created by an 1872 treaty that was never ratified. Some later returned and purchased property in the Burns area, where about 200 tribal members now live.

California governor declares gas leak a state of emergency

LOS ANGELES (AP)—California Gov. Jerry Brown declared a state of emergency Wednesday over a massive natural-gas leak that has been spewing methane and other gases into a Los Angeles neighborhood for months, sickening residents and forcing thousands to evacuate.

In a statement, Brown said he acted based on the requests of people in the community of Porter Ranch and the "prolonged and continuing" nature of the gas blowout at the underground storage facility.

The well, owned by Southern California Gas Co., has been gushing up to 1,200 tons of climate-changing methane daily, along with other gases, since it was first reported in October. It will be months before workers can stem the leak, experts say.

Along with other measures underway, Brown told the gas company to come up with backup plans in case efforts to close the blowout fail and ordered emergency regulations for other gas-storage facilities throughout the state.

The utility is paying to relocate thousands of households after residents complained of nosebleeds, nausea and other ailments from the fumes.

Los Angeles County and the Los Angeles school board already have declared the crisis an emergency, moving students out of two schools in the neighborhood.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

PROCUREMENT, DELIVERY AND INSTALLATION OF SIX (6) AIR-CONDITIONING UNITS
for the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport and Saipan Commuter Terminal
Project No. CPA-SA-001-16

The Commonwealth Ports Authority is soliciting sealed proposals from qualified companies to procure, deliver and install six (6) each air-conditioning units to the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport and the Saipan Commuter Terminal, including one year warranty and one year preventive maintenance.

A scope of work (SOW) detailing the capacity and location of each unit is available for pick up at the CPA Administration Office at no cost. Project approach and cost must be within the parameters of the established SOW. Any deviation from the SOW, a proposal based on reduced SOW or a proposal that exceeded what is required by the SOW, will be grounds for immediate disqualification of the offeror's proposal package.

The proposals shall include the following:

1. Letter of interest;
2. Project Approach;
3. Construction Team;
4. Related past project performance (include commendations or certifications, if available);
5. Available resources to accomplish the project;
6. Cost proposal (in itemized SOW format); and
7. Valid CNMI Business License.

Proposers shall also with their proposal a statement of qualifications which should include résumés and experience of personnel that will be directly in charge of the project and previous similar project experience.

A walk through inspection will be conducted on **January 22, 2016 at 9:00** a.m. in order to assess the area and determine equipment and materials needed for the installation. Attendance at this walkthrough is mandatory for all interested proposers. Prospective proposers will meet CPA staff at the Ports Police Central Office prior to the inspection to acquire security badges. A valid photo I.D. is required to obtain a security badge.

The contract period for procurement and installation will be based on the contractor's proposal. However, liquidated damages of $500.00 shall be assessed the contractor for each calendar day the completion of the project is delayed beyond the contract completion date without approved excuse by CPA.

All proposals are to be submitted one (1) original and four (4) copies in a sealed envelope marked with the respective RFP description to the office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, 2nd floor of the Arrival Building, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, no later than **4:30 p.m., FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2016.**

Each proposal shall be accompanied by a bid bond issued by a CPA approved surety company, a certified check, or a cashier's check in the amount no less than ten percent (10%) of the total proposal amount. Checks shall be made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

Questions and inquiries regarding this Request for Proposals may be delivered to the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, faxed to (670) 234-5962 or emailed to the Saipan Airport Manager at cpa.edmendiola@pticom.com and cpa.engr@pticom.com.

All This procurement is made in accordance with the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations Section 40-50-225. Proposals will be evaluated and scored based on the following criteria:

1. Total cost for construction	40%
2. Experience of the firm on similar or related projects	30%
3. Qualifications of the principal(s) and assigned staff	20%
4. Project Approach	10%

The Project is being financed by funds from the Commonwealth Ports Authority. The contract award, if it is to be made, will be made within sixty (60) calendar days from the receipt of proposals. CPA reserves the right to hold the contract award for ninety (90) calendar days from the date of receipt of proposals.

Each proposal shall be accompanied by a proposal bond issued by a CPA approved surety company, a certified check, or a cashier's check in the amount not less than ten percent (10%) of the total proposal amount. Checks shall be made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority. Upon award, contractor shall execute performance and payment bonds for 100% of the contract amount from a CPA approved surety prior to commencement of work.

All responses to this RFP shall take into account any and all taxes that will be charged to the proposer awarded the contract for the project, including excise tax.

This procurement is made in accordance with the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations Section 40.50.225. CPA reserves the right to reject any or all proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Request for Proposals; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said proposals if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

All proposals shall become property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

/s/ JOSE R. LIFOIFOI
Board Chairman /Contracting Officer

Date: January 5, 2016

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport
P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950-1055
Tel.: (670) 236-6500/1 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-mail: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
AIR CONDITIONING PREVENTIVE MAINTENANCE
SERVICE AND REPAIRS SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
AND PORT OF SAIPAN (CPA-IFB-001-16)

INVITATION FOR BID

Notice is hereby given that the Commonwealth Ports Authority (the "CPA") is accepting sealed bids, subject to the terms and conditions of this Invitation for Bid (the "IFB"), and other contract provisions, for bids from firms, companies and/or corporations to provide Air Conditioning Preventive Maintenance, Service and Repairs at the Saipan International Airport and Port of Saipan.

This IFB is issued pursuant to Chapter 40-50 of the Northern Mariana Islands Administrative Code (the "NMIC"). Title 40, including Chapter 40-50-205, Invitation for Bid, is applicable to the process followed by the IFB.

The Bid Package is available for pick-up beginning December 18, 2015 from 0800 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Office of the Executive Director, 2nd Floor, Arrival Building, Saipan International Airport. The Bid Package includes the Scope of Work and other considerations upon payment of One Hundred Dollars ($100.00) to be paid at the CPA Accounting Office, 2nd Floor of the Departure Terminal Building. Bidders must submit all required documents listed in the bid package. All responses to this IFB shall also take into account any and/or all costs that will be charged to the bidder awarded the contract for the project. Bidders shall also take into consideration all necessary badging requirements and fees for this project.

A mandatory pre-bid conference will be held at the Saipan International Airport Conference Room, 2nd Floor of the Terminal Departure Building at 10:00 a.m., January 6, 2016, to explain and clarify any questions regarding this project. A walk through of the Airport facility will be afforded to all contractors immediately after the conference, or may be scheduled with Jack Tagabuel' of CPA's Maintenance Department by calling telephone numbers 237-6532 or 483-4516. A subsequent walk through of the Port of Saipan facility will follow on January 7, 2016, at 10:00 a.m.. There are 142 units of air conditioning at the airport and 20 units at the seaport.

All bids shall be sealed and marked on the cover package outside as follows: **"Bid for air-conditioning preventive maintenance, service and repairs at the Saipan International Airport and Port of Saipan, CPA-IFB-001-16."** One (1) original and three (3) copies of the bid must be submitted no later than **2 p.m. LOCAL TIME, January 15, 2016,** to the Office of the Executive Director at the aforementioned location.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason, if in its sole opinion to do so, would be in CPA's best interest. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said bids if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest. All bids shall become property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

MARYANN Q. LIZAMA
Executive Director

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950
Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

PROCUREMENT AND DELIVERY OF
TWO (2) UNITS PICKUP TRUCKS
PROJECT NO. IFB-002-16

INVITATION FOR BID

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting sealed bids for the procurement and delivery of two (2) units Pickup Trucks; (a) one unit 2016 Access Cab, 4 cylinder engine, automatic transmission, two (2) wheel drive, with air conditioning, all other features as per factory specifications for CPA Rota Airport; and (b) one unit 2016 4/door, crew cab, 6 cylinder engine, automatic transmission, air-conditioning, all other features as per factory specifications for CPA Tinian Airport. Bidder shall take into consideration all charges associated with this procurement before finalizing its bid price.

Bidders shall guarantee delivery of the vehicle to CPA within 90 days from award of this bid and at which time; CPA will make payment within 10 days thereafter. Questions regarding this procurement should be submitted through the CPA Executive Director via email at cpa.receptionist@pticom.com with copy to atudela@cpa.gov.mp prior to January 19, 2016.

All bids shall be sealed and marked on the cover package outside as follows: "Bid for Procurement and Delivery of two (2) units Pickup Trucks, IFB-002-16". One (1) original and two (2) copies of the bid must be submitted no later than 2:00 p.m. Local Time, January 22, 2016, to the Office of the Executive Director at the Saipan International Airport. Bids will be opened at 3:00 p.m. and publicly announced. Bidders are welcome to attend the bid opening. Bids submitted by facsimile (fax) transmission will not be considered. Any bids received after the bid submittal deadline shall be rejected and returned to the bidder unopened.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bids submitted for; (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Invitation for Bids; (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the bid would not be in the best interest of CPA. The CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said bids if in its sole opinion to do so would not be in CPA's best interest.

All bids shall become the property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority. This Invitation for Bid shall be executed as per the CPA Procurement Regulations.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Acting Executive Director

Date: January 8, 2016

World

US, S. Korea and Japan vow tough response to N. Korea

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—The United States, South Korea and Japan agreed to launch a "united and strong" international response to North Korea's apparent fourth nuclear test, as experts scrambled Thursday to find more details about the detonation that drew worldwide skepticism and condemnation.

It may take weeks or longer to confirm or contradict the North's claim that it successfully tested a hydrogen bomb, which would mark a major and unanticipated advance for its still-limited nuclear arsenal. Even a test of a less sophisticated atomic bomb would push its scientists and engineers closer to their goal of building a warhead small enough to place on a missile that can reach the U.S. mainland.

Separate statements from the White House said President Barack Obama had spoken to South Korean President Park Geun-Hye and to Prime Minister Shinzo Abe of Japan. The statements said the countries "agreed to work together to forge a united and strong international response to North Korea's latest reckless behavior."

Obama also reaffirmed the "unshakeable U.S. commitment" to the security of South Korea and Japan, according to the statements.

The U.N. Security Council held an emergency session and pledged to swiftly pursue new sanctions against North Korea, saying its test was a 'clear violation' of previous U.N. resolutions.

Four rounds of U.N. sanctions have aimed at reining in the North's nuclear and missile development programs, but Pyongyang has ignored them and moved ahead to modernize its ballistic missiles and nuclear weapons.

South Korean officials said they were considering a variety of punitive measures. The options include restarting border propaganda broadcasts that Seoul halted after it agreed with Pyongyang in late August on a package of measures aimed at easing animosities, Defense Minister Han Min-koo told lawmakers Thursday.

Iraq offers to mediate between Saudi Arabia, Iran

TEHRAN, Iran (AP)—Iraq on Wednesday offered to mediate between Saudi Arabia and Iran after tensions soared following the kingdom's execution of a Shiite cleric and attacks on two Saudi diplomatic posts in the Islamic Republic.

The standoff has seen Saudi Arabia sever diplomatic ties with its longtime regional rival and could hinder efforts to resolve the conflicts in Syria and Yemen, where Riyadh and Tehran back opposite sides, as well as affect the implementation of the Iran nuclear deal.

Iraqi Foreign Minister Ibrahim al-Jaafari proposed mediation during a news conference in Tehran, but also referred to the execution of Sheikh Nimr al-Nimr as a "crime." Saudi Arabia and its allies say al-Nimr was found guilty of terrorism charges, and that condemnations of the execution amount to meddling in Riyadh's internal affairs.

Iraq has undertaken a delicate balancing act amid the latest regional turmoil. The Shiite-led government in Baghdad relies on Iranian help to battle the extremist Islamic State group, but is also trying to repair ties to oil-rich Saudi Arabia, which last week sent an ambassador to Baghdad for the first time in 25 years.

Speaking alongside Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif, al-Jaafari said Iraq's place in the heart of the Middle East allows it to play a role in trying to "alleviate tensions."

Filipinos raped by Japanese WWII troops demand compensation

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—A group of elderly Filipino women raped by Japanese troops during World War II called for compensation from Japan on Wednesday, following Tokyo's pledge of $8.3 million for South Korean women forced into Japanese military-run brothels during the war.

The women's lawyers said they were also exploring the possibility of filing cases with United Nations bodies and holding Philippine President Benigno Aquino III liable for allegedly failing to support the case of the women against Japan.

Isabelita Vinuya, the 84-year-old president of Malaya Lolas—a group of Filipino women abducted and raped by Japanese troops in their village—urged the Philippine government to support their demand for justice from Japan.

"We have appealed more than once or twice to our government to help us, support us before Japan so that we can be given justice for the sufferings we went through during World War II," Vinuya said at a news conference, adding that many of the women have died without seeing justice.

Robert Tenorio Torres
Attorney at Law
Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya)
P.O. Box 503758
Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 234-7859
Fax: (670) 234-5749

Attorney for Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

BANK OF GUAM, Plaintiff, vs. KIM EUGENE FORRESTER Defendant.] CIVIL ACTION] NO. 14-0223] NOTICE OF AUCTION and] JUDICIAL SALE OF] DEFENDANT'S REMAINING] LEASEHOLD INTEREST ON] THE MORTGAGED] PROPERTY

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that under and by virtue of a judgment made and entered in the above titled action on the 2nd day of April, 2015, by the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, to satisfy the amount found and adjudged due Plaintiff in the above titled action from Defendant, as prescribed in the Order Granting Motion for Order of Judicial Sale of Leasehold Interest of Mortgaged Property, the undersigned counsel or his designee will sell at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the **3rd day of February, 2016 at 10 a.m.,** at the Law Office of Robert T. Torres, Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, Saipan, the premises and real estate, lying and being on Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, described in said judgment, to wit:

Lot 541 NEW-3-1. (a consolidation of Lot 541 New-2 and part of Lot 541 New-R2, formerly part of Lot 541 NEW-REM, part of Lot 541 NEW, which was part of Original Lot 541, TD 162) as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 2203/91 the original of which was recorded 29 AUG 1991 as Documented No. 91-3913 at Commonwealth Recorder's, Saipan.

Terms and Conditions of Sale.

1. Rights and duties of Auctioneer. Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales with reserve, the auctioneer or his designee shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale:
   a) withdraw the property listed for sale in the public announcement before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted.
   b) to adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is sold, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and
   c) to reject any and all bids.
2. Bids. Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for any and all of the property listed in the notice. Such bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the property. Bids may be entered in person, in writing, or by telephone to Robert T. Torres, Attorney at Law, Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, P.O. Box 503758, Saipan, MP 96950, Phone: 670-234-7859; Fax: 670-234-5749; Email: rttlaw@pticom.com.
3. Deposit and Payment. A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within ten days of the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash, cashier's check, or money order. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within ten days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the 10% deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title and interest in any of the property will revert to Bank of Guam.
4. Change of Terms. Auctioneer and Bank of Guam reserve the right to change any of the terms of conduct and enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause shall be binding on any buyer by constructive notice.
5. Inspection and No Warranty. Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title and property. Contact the Law Office of Robert T. Torres for scheduled viewing and inspection times. The interests of the property are being sold "AS IS" and without warranty. Failure to inspect the real property will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment or rescission by any buyer.

DATED this 23rd day of December, 2015

/s/
Robert T. Torres, Auctioneer

TO: ANA FRANCES I. GATBONTON AND IVANN I. GATBONTON:

You are in default in your Promissory Note dated September 20, 2005, secured by a Real Estate Mortgage of the same date, executed and delivered by you to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation.

(a) Description of the real property covered by Mortgage:

Lot no. 011 G 262, situated in Kagman III, Phase II, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 799 square meters, more or less, as shown on the Division and Lands and Surveys Official Cadastral Plat no. 011 G 06 dated December 1, 1993, Commonwealth Recorder's File no. 93-4414, the description therein being incorporated herein by reference.

(b) Date and amount of Promissory Note and Mortgage: September 20, 2015; $50,000.00
(c) Amount due for principal: $3,127.72 as of December 1, 2015
(d) Amount due for interest: $10,062.60 as of December 1, 2015
(e) Daily accruing interest: $7.67
(f) Late Charger $904.55 as of December 1, 2015

If the principal, interest, and late charges $14,094.87, plus accruing interest, together with reasonable attorney's fees in the amount of $500.00, are not paid within thirty (30) days from the date of service of this notice upon you, you will be in default, and Court proceedings will be commenced against you to foreclose upon the said Mortgage because of the default.

Unless you, within thirty (30) days after receipt of this letter dispute the validity claim, or any portion thereof, we will assume that it is valid. If you notify us in writing within this thirty (30) day period that the claim, or any portion thereof, is disputed, we will obtain information on the debt and mail you a copy thereof. Upon your written request within this thirty (30)-day period, we will provide you with the name and address of the original creditor, if different from the creditor indicated above.

This letter is an attempt to collect a debt. Any information obtained will be used for that purpose.

PARA: ANA FRANCES I. GATBONTON yan IVANN I. GATBONTON

Ti un komple i kontratahan debimu (Promissory Note) ni un fitma gi Septembre 20, 2005, ni afabobot i Real Estate Mortgage ma asegurao i tano yan guma ni un empena gi mismo dia, un fitma yan un entrega i empena (Mortgage) guato gi Northern Marianas Housing Corporation.

(a) I deskripsion tano ni ma empenen (mortgaged):

Sito numiro 011 G 946, ni gaigi gi Kagman III, Saipan, Note Marianas, ni ha konsiste un aria 799 kuadrao Metro, mas pat menus, ni anok gi Division Tano yan Mididan Tano afisiat Cadastral Plat numiro 011 G 06 Gi Disiembre 1, 1993, guihi I diskripsion ni ma incorporate guini ginen i informasion

(b) I kantida yan I fechan este na debi yan empepena: September 20, 2005; $50,000.00
(c) Kantida undebi para principat: $3,127.72 asta ki Disiembre 1, 2015
(d) Kantida undebi para interes: $10,062.60 asta ki Disiembre 1, 2015
(e) Interes kada dia: $7.67
(f) Appas pot atrasao (late charges): $904.55 asta ki Disiembre 1, 2015

Yangin ti un apasi I kantida na principat, interes, yan apas pot atrasao (late charges) $14,094.87 yan i resenable na apas abugado pot $500.00 gi halom trenta (30) dias despues di i fecha ni un resibe este na notisia, un ma konsidera komo ti unkomple I propriadat tano'mu ni un empepeña guato gi Northern Marianas Housing Corporation.

Solo yangin halom trenta (30) dias dispues de un resibe este na kata yan un kontraminagahet-ña pot I apudera sino komo i pattida, siempre bai in hongge an asientadu a apudera. Pago tangin un kattayi han gi halom este i trenta (30) dias siklo man infofotma hao pot i apudera sino komo i pattida para un kontra, pues bai in henta infotmasion pot I dibi-mus dispues un ma kattayi i kopia pot este na de'unta. Anai in resive I kata-mu gi halon trenta (30) dias siklo, bai in nai'I hao i nai'I hao i na'an yan address I akredot komo ti parehu na akredot ma indika guini hulu.

Este na kata para u ma na'kesiña ma rikohi i dibi-mu. Maseha haga na infotmasion ni in resibe pot este na apudera – siña bai in usa para bai in ke-chagi mu rekohi para este I dibi-mu.

/s/
MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ.
Attorney at Law

MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ. F0122
THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC
POST OFFICE BOX 522
SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950
TEL: (670) 234-6547
FAX: (670) 234-9537

ATTORNEY FOR *Plaintiff*

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

BANK OF GUAM Plaintiff, -v- ANGELINA A. MANGLONA Defendant,] CIVIL ACTION] NO. 02-0408]]

EIGHT AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on June 25, 2010, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendant in and to the following property: Lot 345 R 404, the Division of Lands and Surveys Official Cadastral Plat No. 345 R 09 dated September 21, 1984, Commonwealth Recorder's File No. 64-2049.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, January 29, 2016, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at the Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale will be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED this 28th day of December, 2015.

/s/MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9910(a), the Tinian Casino Gaming Control Commission (TCGCC) hereby gives notice that it will hold its Regular Meeting on Wednesday, January 13, 2016, at 9:00 a.m. at the TCGCC Conference Room.

AGENDA

I. PRELIMINARY
   a. Call to Order
   b. Roll Call
   c. Adoption of Agenda
   d. Adoption of Minutes
      i. Special Meeting – September 22, 2015
      ii. Special Meeting – September 24, 2015 (continuation - September 28, 2015 and September 30, 2015) [Action and Verbatim]
      iii. Special Meeting – October 28, 2015
II. PUBLIC COMMENTS
III. REPORTS
   a. Chair's Report
   b. Executive Director's Report
IV. OLD BUSINESS
   a. Re-Opening of Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino
   b. Bankruptcy Case No. 15-00006 In Re: Hong Kong Entertainment Overseas Investment, Ltd. dba Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino
   c. Special Fee Assessment for 1st Quarter FY2016
V. NEW BUSINESS
   a. Hong Kong Entertainment Investment Overseas Ltd. Casino License Renewal Status
   b. Fees and Taxes owed by Hong Kong Entertainment Overseas Investment Ltd.
   c. Petition of TEC for Declaratory Ruling re: ICA Emergency Regulations
   d. Petition of TEC for Declaratory Ruling re: Applicability of Regulation § 170-30.2-825
   e. Adoption of Proposed Regulations re: Investigative Fee Deposit Trust Account (CR V37 #09 – 09/28/15)
   f. Proposed Amendment to TCGCC Regulations §170-30.2-801(a) re: General Description of Fees and Deposit Policy
   g. Contract of Executive Director
   h. Contract of Amerine Gaming Enterprises
   i. Contract of Law Office of O'Connor, Berman, Dotts & Banes
   j. Civil Action No. 15-0047 (TCGCC, et al. vs. Lizama, et al.)
   k. Consideration of ED Recommendations & Commission Actions re: Licensing Matters for:
      i. Casino Service Industry License Applications
         (a) Silver Heritage Limited ("SHL")
         (b) International Casino Service Limited ("ICS")
         (c) Tinian Trading International, Inc. ("TTI")
      ii. Casino Employee License/ Registration Applications
         (a) TDHC employees/consultants
VI. EXECUTIVE SESSION
VII. MISCELLANEOUS/ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS
VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Century Tours, Inc.
is inviting qualified U.S. workers to apply for the following positions:

(1) Inventory Assistant (Part-Time)
High School Diploma, GED or equivalent with at least six (6) months retail experience and at least three (3) months of prior receiving, stocking and inventory experience. Must be proficient in Microsoft Office applications (Excel, MS Word, Outlook, Power Point). Knowledge on the following equipment: POS terminal, photocopier/facsimile machine, and other items as necessary to accomplish assigned tasks. Must be able to lift at least 15 pound items and move up to 50 pound items using a trolley.

(1) Inventory Assistant
High School Diploma, GED or equivalent with at least six (6) months retail experience and at least three (3) months of prior receiving, stocking and inventory experience. Must be proficient in Microsoft Office applications (Excel, MS Word, Outlook, Power Point). Knowledge on the following equipment: POS terminal, photocopier/facsimile machine, and other items as necessary to accomplish assigned tasks. Must be able to lift at least 15 pound items and move up to 50 pound items using a trolley.

(1) Customer Service Agent (Part-Time)
High school diploma, GED or equivalent. Two (02) months work experience in Travel or Tour operation or sales or service based work environment. Preferably fluent in both written and oral communication in the English, Korean, Japanese, or Chinese languages.

(1) Customer Service Agent
High school diploma, GED or equivalent. Two (02) months work experience in Travel or Tour operation or sales or service based work environment. Preferably fluent in both written and oral communication in the English, Korean, Japanese, or Chinese languages.

(7) Tour Sales Representative
High school diploma, GED or equivalent. A minimum of six (6) months to one (1) year experience in a related field. Work experience with travel and tour operation is an advantage. Able and willing to work shifts, evenings, holidays, and weekends. Able to drive tourists safely through various tour routes. Preferably fluent in both written and oral communication in the English, Russian, Korean, or Chinese languages.

Interested applicants may send their applications to hr_ctr@tanholdings.com. To be considered, applications must be submitted not later than January 21, 2016. Applications for Employment are available at the Human Resources Department located at the Century Tours Office, Kanoa Resort, Beach Road, Susupe Village. Background checks and pre-employment drug testing will be required prior to employment.

Century Tours is an Equal Opportunity Employer
Qualified Women, Minorities, Veterans and Persons with Disabilities are urged to apply.

Off The Wall

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

Missouri man reveals $2 million lottery win on Christmas Day

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. (AP)—A northwest Missouri man held on to a secret for three weeks to give his wife the Christmas surprise of a lifetime. Robert Bowlin, of Platte City, won a Missouri Lotto jackpot in early December, splitting a $4 million prize with another person who matched all six numbers. Bowlin is a retired operating engineer from Platte City. He discovered he had won Dec. 3. He notified a financial adviser and a CPA, but otherwise didn't tell anyone until Christmas, when he told his wife. He collected his winnings Dec. 29. The father of three and grandfather of two says he hasn't made any plans for his winnings.

Barking dog leads police officer to trapped canine companion

ORANGE, Mass. (AP)—It was a scene straight out of an episode of "Lassie." Police in western Massachusetts say a dog approached an officer on Tuesday barking frantically and then led the officer across a field and down an icy, 30-foot embankment, where the dog's canine companion had become entangled in the undergrowth. Firefighters in Orange used a ladder to free the trapped dog, which was taken to a veterinarian for a checkup. The two dogs had run off hours earlier when their owner suffered a medical emergency at her home and was taken to the hospital. Police tried to catch the dogs, but they kept running away.

Detroit artist sues to protect enormous mural on building

DETROIT (AP)—A Detroit artist is suing to protect an enormous multicolor mural that's been described as a "bleeding rainbow" on a building that could be developed into apartments. Katherine Craig says a federal law gives her the right to protect the mural from changes or destruction. The mural was created in 2009 with more than 100 gallons of paint poured from the roof of the brick building in Detroit. The paint was spread with a variety of tools, including fire extinguishers and salad dressing bottles. Craig fears the mural will be ruined if windows are installed on the building. The new owner, Princeton Enterprises, says it disagrees with Craig's interpretation of law as well as the "facts" of the dispute.

Police: School bus stuck in sinkhole, students OK

COCKEYSVILLE, Md. (AP)—Baltimore County officials say a school bus carrying high school students got stuck in a sinkhole that opened up after a water main break, but the students got off safely. Police said in social media posts that the bus carrying Dulaney High School students got stuck Wednesday morning in Cockeysville. Police posted a photo online showing the rear of the bus sunken into water on the submerged section of road. County schools spokesman Mychael Dickerson says the bus was driving slowly toward a stop, then suddenly couldn't move. Dickerson says that he doesn't know how many students were onboard but that they exited safely and went to school on another bus.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

Judiciary Administrative Office
Guma' Hustisia · Iimwal Aweewe · House of Justice
P.O. Box 502165 · Saipan MP 96950
T: (670) 236-9715 · F: (670) 236-9702

The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) Judiciary is seeking a highly motivated individual for the position of:

DEPUTY MARSHAL I
On the island of ROTA

DUTIES: The successful candidate will work under the Director of Law Enforcement and Security in the Marshal Service Division on Saipan which involves the enforcement and execution of judicial orders and assigned law enforcement duties. The duties of this position include, but are not limited to the following:

- Performs enforcement and execution of court orders and service documents such as jury summons;
- Performs court security duties required for judicial proceedings, protection of justices, judges, court staff, clients, jurors, witnesses, and judicial facilities; assists in the operation of the court's security control monitoring systems;
- Conducts inspection and screening of all persons entering the courthouse and prohibits the entrance onto the court's premises of any items that are restricted or prohibited; provides the public with direction and information on all public services locations within the courthouse;
- Prepares written reports of service and non-service documents, incidents, and other reports as required;
- Performs prisoner handling while awaiting court hearings; escorts prisoners to courtrooms and to holding cells as directed;
- Has knowledge of and follows courtroom directives;
- Completes annually all required training including firearms; complies to all procedures relative to the proper use, maintenance, and security of government issued firearms;
- Performs other duties on the courthouse premises as assigned.

QUALIFICATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS: Candidate must have a high school diploma or equivalent, a minimum of two (2) years experience in law enforcement and/or one year college level education in criminal justice or related field of study. Successful candidate must provide current police and traffic clearances and proof of eligibility to work in the CNMI. Applicants given a conditional offer of employment with the CNMI Judiciary will be required to submit to urinalysis to screen for the illegal use of drugs prior to employment.

COMPENSATION AND TENURE: This is an ungraded position appointed and served at the pleasure of the Chief Justice. Salary will be $16,652 annually.

INTERESTED PERSONS may obtain application forms at the OPM offices in the CNMI, at the Judiciary Administrative Office at the Guma Hustisia/Iimwal Aweewe/House of Justice in Susupe, or at the Superior Court offices on Tinian and Rota. Completed applications, cover letter, and three references should be submitted either in hard copy or electronically:

Human Resources
Guma Hustisia/Iimwal Aweewe/House of Justice
P.O. Box 502165
Saipan, MP 96950
Tel. (670)236-9818
Fax. (670) 236-9702
michelle.guerrero@justice.gov.mp

This job announcement will remain open until filled. Also, this job announcement can be seen and a printable copy of the application downloaded at http://www.justice.gov.mp.

THE CNMI JUDICIARY IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER.

PACIFIC ISLANDS CLUB SAIPAN

We are seeking for high energy individuals with a positive, can do attitude.
Pacific Islands Club, Saipan is inviting qualified, U.S. workers to apply for the following positions:

(1) ACCOUNTING ASSISTANT
Minimum of two (2) years of work experience, preferably in hospitality and knowledge of generally accepted accounting and bookkeeping principles and procedures. Degree in accounting is required. Strong knowledge in using front office systems and point-of-sale systems such as Opera Property Management System and Micros POS. Must be able to work evenings, C-shift (for night audit reliever 11PM-7AM), weekends and holidays.

(1) ASSISTANT FRONT OFFICE MANAGER
Assists with the Front Office operations, including a Call Center, Concierge, Tour Desk and Guest Service operations; Must have the ability to train employees to ensure standards of the hotel are met. Minimum of five (5) years of hotel/hospitality is required. Minimum of two (2) years of previous experience managing the Front Office of a hotel is required. Excellent written and oral communication skills are necessary. Must be able to solve guest complaints and work in a high-pressured environment. Must be able to speak and understand one or more of the following languages: Korean, Japanese or Russian; Must be able to work graveyard shifts, evenings, weekends, and holidays.

(2) BARTENDER
Minimum one (1) year of related work experience; Must be at least 21 years old. Ability to speak Chinese, Korean, Russian or Japanese is preferred. Must be able to work evenings, weekends and holidays.

(1) CHINESE COOK
Minimum of two (2) years related work experience in preparing Chinese cuisine. Must be able to coordinate and support team members within the kitchen department. Must be able to communicate clearly in English. Must be able to work evenings, weekends, and holidays.

CLUBMATES
Applicants must have previous related work experience and must pass all American Red Cross Lifeguard requirements (including a 300 yard continuous swim test); Sports-minded individuals are encouraged to apply; Must possess good verbal and written communication skills; Korean, Japanese and/or Russian language skill is a plus; Paid training and free two year lifeguard certification course for eligible candidates; Must be able to work on evenings, weekends and holidays.

(1) COOK
Minimum of one (1) year related work experience. Must be able to work evenings, weekends, and holidays.

(1) ELECTRICIAN
Minimum of five (5) years work experience. Must be able to work shifts, weekends, and holidays.

(1) FRONT DESK CLERK
Minimum of one (1) year work experience, preferably in hospitality. Previous cashiering experience required. Fluency in Korean, Russian and/or Japanese languages is preferred. Must be able to work evenings, graveyard shifts, weekends and holidays.

(1) ENTERTAINMENT MANAGER
Applicant must have previous choreography and dance experience with at least one year in a similar role. Must be versed in a wide variety of dance styles. Previous teaching experience is preferred. Must be versed in music editing programs and be able to learn how to operate the equipment in the PIC sound booth. Must be a certified American Red Cross lifeguard or be able to pass all American Red Cross Lifeguard requirements (including a 300 yard continuous swim test) in order to achieve certification. Strong communication, interpersonal and customer service skills are essential. Must have working knowledge of Microsoft Office with the ability to work well under pressure. Strong attention to detail and the ability to work under deadlines are necessary qualifications for the Entertainment Manager. Must be versed in all aspects of the "CLUBMATE" position as they will also be scheduled shifts in and around the beach/waterpark. Korean, Japanese and/or Russian language skills preferred. Must be able to work a flexible schedule including early morning hours, nights, weekends and holidays.

(1) HVAC TECHNICIAN
Minimum of four (4) years related work experience. Must be able to work evenings, weekends, and holidays.

(1) KOREAN COOK
Must have at least a minimum 2 years of related experience with Korean cuisine and ingredients. Must have previous experience in high volume production including large banquets, functions and special events. High School Diploma or higher is required. Must be able to work early mornings, nights, weekends, and holidays.

(1) MERCHANDISE COORDINATOR
Minimum of one (1) year of work experience handling clerical work involved with receiving, storing, stocking, inventory and distribution of supplies for the Boutiki store. Must have good computer skills and have the ability to bend, lift, carry, push, reach and handle inventory supplies weighing 50-75 pounds. Must have the ability to speak, read and comprehend the English language. Must be able to work evenings, weekends and holidays.

(1) MUSICIAN
Minimum two (2) years experience as a musician; Must be able to perform music in English as well as Japanese/Korean/Russian; Need to be able to play a variety of music genres, classical, pop, rock, reggae, country etc. Must be able to play on an individual, duo and trio basis; At least one member must be a classical pianist, playing classical music during restaurant dining hours. Must be able to host events, MC events, be able to promote audience participation during sing-a-long shows. Must be able to work evenings, weekends and holidays. May be subject to audition.

(1) NETWORK ADMINISTRATOR
Minimum of five (5) years experience in the IT industry. Thorough knowledge of all software and hardware is required; this includes all Microsoft Windows desktop and server operating systems, Microsoft application support, SQL 2005 administration skills, Symantec Product experience with Ghost, ACT! And corporate anti-virus software, Access database and report design skills with IIS, ASP and HTML Skills. Linux skills and Active Directory experience is highly desirable. Experience in the use of electronic mail (mail relays, spam filters and mail integrity) and Internet protocols (e.g. TCP/IP, PPP and IMAP). Sound knowledge of routers, firewalls, network security, network configuration and construction, switches and fiber is required. Applicant should have in depth knowledge of VPN, VPN encryption, PC and server hardware, new PC and server installations, configuration and support, System backups and general network administration.

(1) POWERHOUSE OPERATOR
Minimum of three (3) years related work experience. Certified Water Treatment and Distribution Operator preferred. Must be a certified Class A/B UST operator. Must be able to work evenings, weekends and holidays.

(1) POWERHOUSE SUPERVISOR
Minimum three (3) years experience in diesel power generator operations and one (1) year of supervisory experience. Must be a certified Water Treatment operator Class 2 and Water Distribution Class 1. Must be certified Class A/B UST operator. Must be able to work evenings, weekends and holidays.

(2) SALES ASSOCIATE
Seeking a highly motivated sales associates to join our team. The ideal candidate will have customer service experience and be able to work flexible hours. Bilingual in Japanese, Korean or Russian a plus. Previous Retail experience preferred, but we are willing to train. Must be able to work evenings, weekends and holidays.

(1) WAITSTAFF
Minimum of three (3) months of work experience. Must be able to work evenings, weekends and holidays.

Applications must be received by 5:00pm on Tuesday, January 12th, 2016
PIC applications are available at the PIC Security Desk by the Loading Dock/Employee Entrance.
Incomplete applications will NOT be accepted or considered.
PIC is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Science & Technology

Netflix expands into 130 more countries in surprise move

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)— Netflix has already crossed off the biggest item on its New Year's list of resolutions. The Internet video service debuted in 130 countries Wednesday in a surprise move likely to reel in millions of new subscribers.

CEO Reed Hastings revealed the scope of Netflix's expansion at the end of a presentation in Las Vegas at CES, one of the technology industry's marquee events.

"You are witnessing the birth of a global TV network," Hastings crowed on stage.

The news caught almost everyone off guard because Netflix had previously set a goal of being available in most of the world by the end of this year. It looked like the Los Gatos, California, company had plenty of work ahead it because it ended December in 60 countries.

Now, Netflix is available in 21 different languages and streaming in just about every market that it had in its sights, with the notable exception of China, the world's most populous country. Entering China may be a formidable challenge requiring potentially prickly negotiations with a government that blocks its citizenry from seeing material it considers objectionable or incendiary.

In an interview, Hastings said the company will try to a partner in China while it tries to appease the country's Communist government, a process that he hopes to complete by the end of this year.

"The key in approaching the Chinese business is really working on relationships," Hastings told The Associated Press. "In the rest of the world, we are racing ahead."

Netflix currently has no plans to push into North Korea, Syria or Crimea because of restrictions on U.S. companies operating in those countries.

TECH Q&A

Saving the photos on an older phone

By STEVE ALEXANDER
STAR TRIBUNE (MINNEAPOLIS)

Q: I have an old clamshell AT&T phone that contains photos I'd like to get printed. I've been told that, because of the age of my phone, I can only transfer photos from it one at a time. Is there a way that I can transfer the photos as a group to some other storage medium? All I know about the phone is that it was AT&T model number 2331 and SKU number 65274.

A: It may not be possible for you to transfer a group of photos from your phone to a PC, but an AT&T store might be able to do it for you.

Here's what I learned: Your flip-phone's model number isn't 2331, but Z331. The 2011 user manual for that phone (see tinyurl.com/jterlbc) describes on page 19 how to send a single photo via a message technology called MMS (Multimedia Messaging Service). The manual doesn't describe how to send several photos at once, so you probably can't do it yourself.

But that doesn't mean it can't be done. When people buy new phones, stores routinely transfer all their photos from the old phone to the new one. Ask an AT&T store technician if your photos could be moved to a new phone, or, alternatively, to a flash drive that you could take to a store that prints photos. My guess is you'll have to buy a new phone to save the photos from this one.

Q: Is there an easy and safe way to get Google's Gmail to work in Microsoft's Outlook program on my PC? I prefer the Outlook format.

A: For easy directions on how to make your Gmail account work with Microsoft Outlook (the PC program, not the Outlook.com online email service), see tinyurl.com/zq3nkvc.

Q: The Windows XP PC that I bought in 2000 has become increasingly slow when I use the Internet, even though our cable Internet service downloads data at 60 megabits per second. I have trouble even getting my email from my AOL account. If I bought a new desktop PC, could I transfer all the programs on my existing PC to the new one?

A: You do need to buy a new computer. Your 16-year-old PC is slow because today's Internet software is designed for computers with faster processors and more random-access memory (RAM) than your machine has. I doubt that any of your Windows XP software would be usable on a new Windows 10 PC (in any event, you could only reinstall old software on a new PC if you had the original CD disk the program came on).

On the positive side, a new PC might include all the software you'll need. If not, your 60-megabit cable Internet service is fast enough to download any software you'll want.

FIRST YEAR DEATH ANNIVERSARY

†Nicolas Baza Santos

We, the family would like to invite all our relatives and friends to join us as we commemorate the first year death anniversary of our beloved husband/father/grandfather unto eternal life. Daily masses will be celebrated as follows at Kristo Rai Church in Garapan.

Friday	:	January 8, 2016	:	6:00 a.m.
Saturday	:	January 9, 2016	:	6:00 p.m.
Sunday	:	January 10, 2016	:	8:00 a.m.
Monday	:	January 11, 2016	:	6:00 a.m.
Tuesday	:	January 12, 2016	:	6:00 a.m.
Wednesday	:	January 13, 2016	:	6:00 p.m.
Thursday	:	January 14, 2016	:	6:00 a.m.
Friday	:	January 15, 2016	:	6:00 a.m.
Saturday	:	January 16, 2016	:	6:00 p.m.

On the final day, Saturday, January 16th, an appreciation dinner will be served at the Kristo Rai Social Hall. Please join us in our prayers and dinner.

Si Yu'us Ma'ase ginen as
Hilaria Kisa Santos & Children

IN LOVING MEMORY

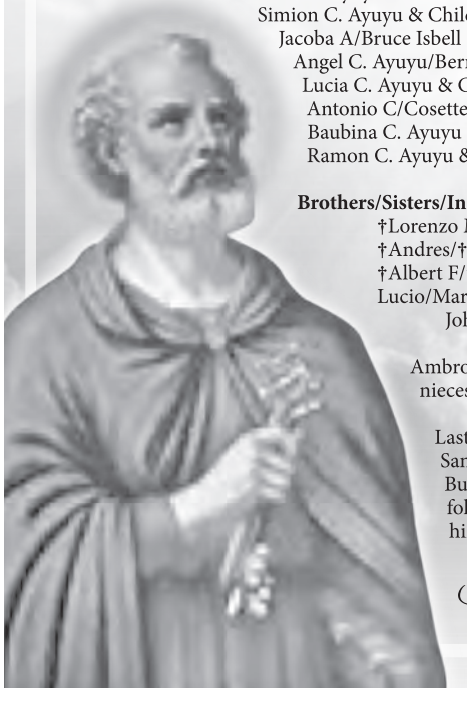
†Ambrosio
Manglona Ayuyu

of San Jose, Tinian, was called home by our Heavenly Father on December 31, 2015, at the age of 92.

He will be welcomed into the gates of Heaven by his:
Wife: Dolores Cabrera Ayuyu
Parents: Pedro/Carmen Manglona Ayuyu
Parents In-law: Soledad DLC/Francisco M. Cabrera

His memories will remain in the hearts of his:
Children: Chief Justice Alexandro C/Carmen M. Castro & Children
Pedro C/Mercy Ayuyu & Children
Vicenta A/Charles Hamms & Children
†Carmen A/†Francisco San Nicolas & Children
†Lorenzo C. Ayuyu & Daughter
Ambrosio C/Rosa N. Ayuyu & Children
†Soledad C. Ayuyu
Simion C. Ayuyu & Children
Jacoba A/Bruce Isbell & Children
Angel C. Ayuyu/Bernadita H. Naputi & Son
Lucia C. Ayuyu & Children
Antonio C/Cosette Ayuyu & Children
Baubina C. Ayuyu & Children
Ramon C. Ayuyu & Lovelyna T. Saralu & Son

Brothers/Sisters/In-Laws & Spouses:
†Lorenzo M/Edna C. Ayuyu
†Andres/†Jacoba A. Songsong
†Albert F/†Consolacion A. Fleming
Lucio/Maria Gogue
John DLC/†Susana K. Cabrera



Ambrosio is additionally survived by numerous aunts, uncles, nieces and nephews.

Last respects will be held on Friday, January 15, 2016, at the San Jose Church beginning at 7:00am. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10:00 am. Interment will follow at the Tinian San Jose Cemetery where we will bid him farewell and a peaceful rest.

Si Yu'us Ma'ase ginen i Familia

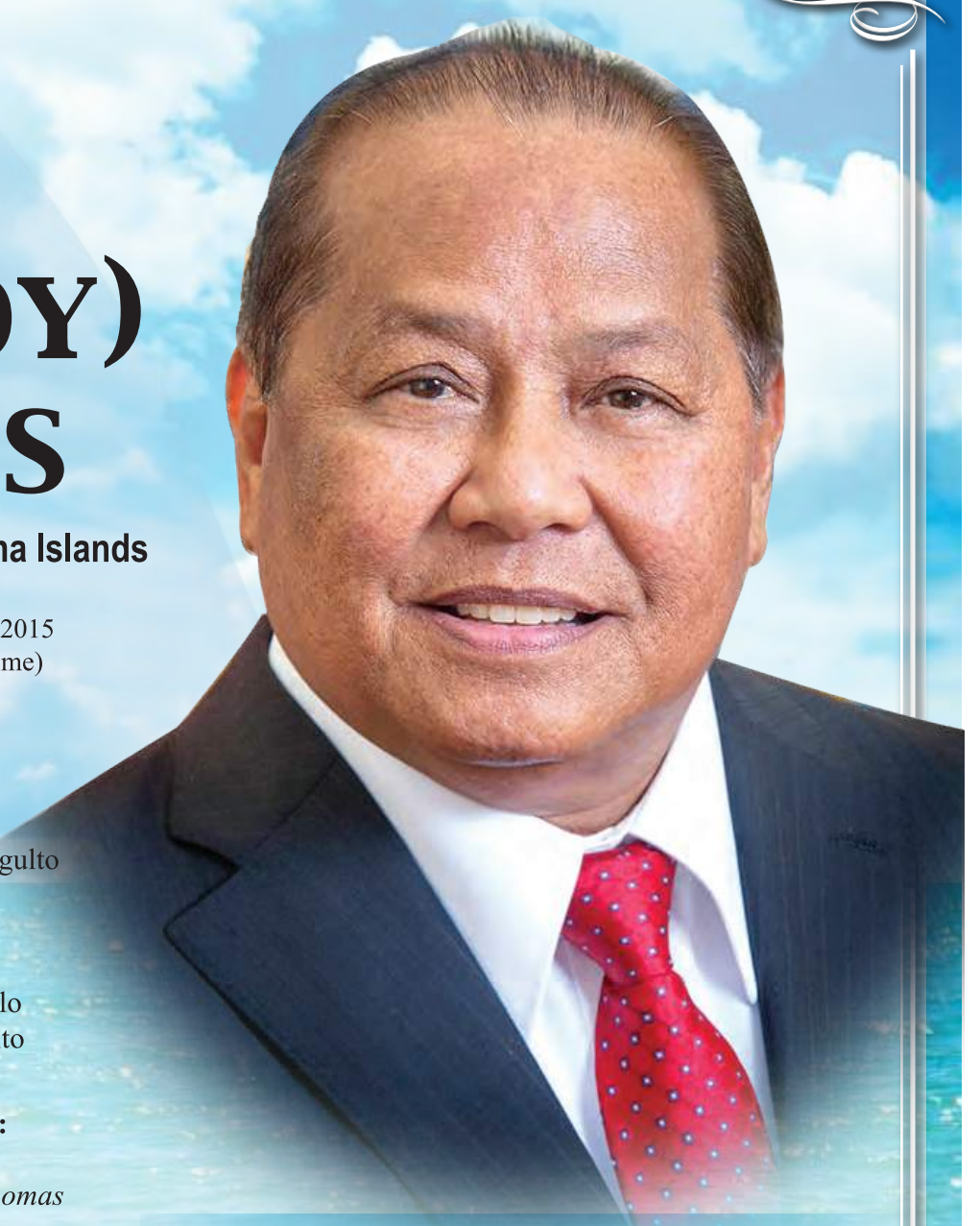
Death and Funeral Announcement

In God's Care

†Eulogio (Eloy) Songao Inos

Governor of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

Born to Life on September 26, 1949
Called to his Eternal Life by our Dear Lord on Monday, December 28, 2015
(Seattle, Washington time) & Tuesday, December 29, 2015 (Saipan time)



"What counts in life is not the mere fact that we have lived. It is what difference we have made to the lives of others that will determine the significance of the life we lead."
— Nelson Mandela

"I have a great deal that I want to accomplish with you and for you over the next four years. And, the Lord willing, that's exactly what I intend to do."
— Governor Eloy S. Inos
(Inaugural Address, January 12, 2015)

In His New Life, He now Joins His:
Wife: Dolores Agulto Inos
Parents: Vicente Atalig Inos and Ana Songao Inos
Parents-in-Law: Thomas Concepcion Agulto and Ana Barcinas Agulto
Brother: Marcus Songao Inos
Reared Daughter: Katherine Agulto Deleon Guerrero
Sisters-in-Law: Dianne Masga Inos, Dr. Rita Hocog-Inos, Maria Barcinas Agulto and Modesta Agulto Bartolo
Brothers-in-Law: Pedro Barcinas Agulto and Jesus Barcinas Agulto
Niece: Ana Blossom Inos-Macduff

His Spirit and Memories will Live Forever in the Hearts of His:
Children: Dora Anne Inos Deleon Guerrero (Gerald)
Desirae Dionne, Gerald John and Eloy Thomas
Elaine Michelle A. Inos (Joel S. Borja)
Jordan Esabella
Eloise Kay A. Inos
Christine Mae A. Inos (Parker Yobei)
Mia Danielle
Fleuretta Jean A. Inos
Velma Paulette Apatang-Lore (Scott)
David Peter, John Anthony, Justin Eric and Ryan
Son-in-Law: Zeno C. Deleon Guerrero (Tina Sakisat)
Tasha Rae, Zeno Jr., Crystal, Francisco and Bella
Brothers, Sisters & -in-Laws:
Cristobal S. Inos (Barbara Ada Torres) & Children
Joseph S./Lucinda S. Inos & Children
Esther I./Jose S. Basa & Children
Juanita I./Ramon L. Takai & Children
Rufin S. Thelma B. Inos & Children
Lucy I./Ramon M. Sablan & Children
Brothers-in-Law: Jose B. Agulto (Francine) & Children
Pedro Bartolo & Children
Sister-in-Law: Dolores M. Agulto & Children
Family Friend: Marita A. Corpuz

He is additionally survived by numerous cousins, nieces, nephews, godchildren and will be greatly missed by many.
The remains of **Honorable Governor †Eloy S. Inos** will arrive **on Friday, January 8th, 2016 at 3:00 p.m.** and will be escorted to the Borja Funeral Home.

On Tuesday, January 12th, 2016, **his remains** will be escorted to Our Lady of Mount Carmel Cathedral at 7:30 a.m. for visitation and last respects.

Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 3:00 p.m. followed by interment services at the Chalan Kanoa Cemetery.

Un Dangkulu na Si Yu'us Ma'ase', Olomwaay and Thank You
The Children and Family

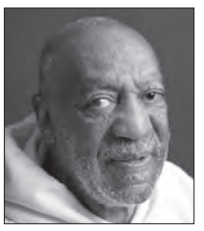
Life & Style

Los Angeles County prosecutors reject Cosby sex charges

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Los Angeles County prosecutors declined Wednesday to charge Bill Cosby with sexually abusing two teenagers in 1965 and 2008, citing time limits and a lack of evidence.

The decision comes about a week after Cosby, 78, was charged with drugging and sexually assaulting a woman in 2004 inside his home near Philadelphia—the first criminal case brought against him out of the torrent of allegations that destroyed his good-guy image as America's Dad. His lawyers have called the charges in that case unjustified and said they expected Cosby to be exonerated.

"We are satisfied that the Los Angeles DA's office fully and fairly evaluated all the facts and evidence, and came to the right conclusion in declining to file charges against Mr. Cosby," his attorney, Monique Pressley, said in a statement.


Cosby

Dozens of women have accused Cosby of sex assaults or attempted molestations in incidents dating back more than four decades.

In Los Angeles County, the district attorney's office investigated allegations by a woman who said that in 1965, when she was 17 years old, Cosby took her to a jazz club in Hollywood, bought her alcoholic drinks, and took her to a home in the Hollywood Hills where he forced her to have sex.

"Filing the crime of forcible rape is barred by the statute of limitations and as such, any consideration of a criminal filing is prohibited by law," said comments on a DA's charge evaluation worksheet.

Charges also were declined in the case of a woman who claimed she attended a party at the Playboy Mansion in the summer of 2008, when she was 18, during which Cosby gave drinks to her and a friend.

The woman claimed she felt dizzy and sick and Cosby offered to take her to lie down in a room where she blacked out. The woman said she awoke naked.

Authorities investigated after model Chloe Goins met with Los Angeles police detectives in January to detail her allegations. Cosby's attorney at the time released a statement denying the accusation and saying Cosby was not in Los Angeles at the time.

Investigators found Cosby wasn't listed as a guest at any 2008 summer events at the mansion and a woman that the alleged victim said was a potential witness denied knowing her or being at the mansion, according to the DA's worksheet.

The worksheet also indicated that the statute of limitations had expired to charge Cosby with misdemeanor sexual battery and indecent exposure in the case and there was little or no evidence to back felony sex charges.

Goins, who has sued Cosby, was the second woman to meet with Los Angeles police detectives to make accusations against the comedian.

Prosecutors earlier rejected filing charges against him based on allegations by Judy Huth, who alleges in a lawsuit that he abused her at the Playboy Mansion in the early 1970s when she was 15.

The comedian gave a deposition in the case in October.

A judge has also ordered Cosby to be deposed in a defamation case filed by model Janice Dickinson, who accuses Cosby of drugging and raping her in 1982 in Lake Tahoe, California.

However on Wednesday, a California appellate court put the deposition on hold until a challenge to the case by Cosby's attorneys is decided. A hearing is set for next month.

'Furious 7,' 'Big Bang Theory' win at People's Choice Awards

LOS ANGELES (AP)—"Furious 7" was named favorite movie, "The Big Bang Theory" won top TV show, and Ellen DeGeneres set a record at the People's Choice Awards.

The fan-voted prizes were presented Wednesday night in Los Angeles at a ceremony hosted by Jane Lynch.

DeGeneres received a humanitarian award, as well as the trophy for favorite daytime TV host, bringing her total People's Choice wins to a record-tying 17.

A select list of winners

Movie: "Furious 7"
Movie actor: Channing Tatum
Movie actress: Sandra Bullock
Action movie: "Furious 7"
Comedic movie: "Pitch Perfect 2"
Dramatic movie: "The Martian"
Family movie: "Minions"
Thriller movie: "Taken 3"
TV show: "The Big Bang Theory"
Network TV comedy: "The Big Bang Theory"
Network TV drama: "Grey's Anatomy"
Cable TV comedy: "It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia"
Cable TV drama: "Pretty Little Liars"
Competition TV show: "The Voice"
Streaming series: "Orange is the New Black"
Animated TV show: "The Simpsons"
Male musician: Ed Sheeran
Female musician: Taylor Swift
Group: Fifth Harmony
Album: "Title," Meghan Trainor
Song: "What Do You Mean?" Justin Bieber
Social media celebrity: Britney Spears
Mobile game: "Candy Crush Saga"

Dakota Meyer seeks joint custody of child with Bristol Palin

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP)—A Medal of Honor winner is seeking joint custody of the child he had out of wedlock with Bristol Palin, a former reality television personality and daughter of 2008 GOP vice presidential candidate Sarah Palin.

Palin

Dakota Meyer filed a lawsuit against Bristol Palin in Alaska Superior Court on Monday seeking joint custody of their child, Sailor Grace Palin. The child was born Dec. 23.

"Dakota couldn't be more excited to be a new father and the best dad that he can be," his lawyer, Kimberlee Colbo, said in an email to The Associated Press.

"To him, that means being a big part of his daughter's life. Beyond that, he'd really appreciate and thank his friends, supporters and the news media for respecting the privacy of each family in this very personal matter," Colbo said.

Attempts to reach a spokesman for Bristol Palin, who competed twice on "Dancing with the Stars" and had her own reality show on cable, weren't immediately successful. The Palin family lawyer declined to comment.

Meyer, a former Marine living in Greensburg, Kentucky, was engaged to Palin, but the wedding was abruptly called off a week before it was to take place last May.

Meyer is seeking joint custody and shared physical custody of the child, and the court could decide child support.

"At this point, no one is seeking child support," Colbo said.

It's the second child for Palin. "Our family couldn't be more complete," she wrote on Instagram when Sailor Grace was born last month.

Meyer tweeted it was the "Best Christmas present ever!!"

Palin announced her second pregnancy on her blog in June, a month after the two broke off the engagement.

911 transcript: Rocker Scott Weiland found 'stiff' on bus

BLOOMINGTON, Minn. (AP)—A 911 transcript reveals the moment when Scott Weiland's bandmates found the former Stone Temple Pilots frontman's body on his tour bus in suburban Minneapolis last month.

Weiland died of a toxic combination of drugs and alcohol. He was 48.

According to the transcript obtained Wednesday by The Associated Press, an unidentified caller tells a Bloomington 911 dispatcher that Weiland was "stiff" and "not moving."

"I think he's dead," said the caller, who asked for an ambulance. "No, he's not breathing."

Later the caller said Weiland was "hard as a rock right now, not, not moving" as another dispatcher began telling the caller to do chest compressions on Weiland. There was no heart defibrillator on the bus, the caller said.

Weiland

A Bloomington police report said Weiland's tour manager, Aaron Mohler, found Weiland on the bus on Dec. 3 and could not wake him. The report said Mohler then called drummer Joseph Castillo, who couldn't find a pulse on Weiland.

The Hennepin County Medical Examiner's Office has said Weiland had cocaine, alcohol and the amphetamine MDA—a drug similar to ecstasy—in his system. The medical examiner also noted a history of cardiovascular disease, asthma and multi-substance dependence. His death was ruled accidental.

Weiland's band Scott Weiland & the Wildabouts had been scheduled to play in Medina, Minnesota, on Dec. 3, but the show had been canceled a week earlier due to poor ticket sales.

Weiland's three-decade career in music also included solo albums and a spot in the supergroup Velvet Revolver.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Khloe Kardashian: Lamar Odom doing well in recovery

PASADENA, Calif. (AP)—Khloe Kardashian says former NBA star Lamar Odom is doing well in his recovery from an apparent drug overdose last year in a Nevada brothel. In a public appearance touting her upcoming talk show on Wednesday, Kardashian gave few details about Odom's condition, saying it was his story to tell. Kardashian had filed for divorce from Odom, but she halted those proceedings after he was found unconscious last October, from an apparent overdose of cocaine and other drugs. "He's doing amazing, and I'm so proud of the strength that he has had to fight that battle," said Kardashian, part of the reality TV juggernaut that includes "Keeping Up With the Kardashians" and, at one time, "Khloe and Lamar." The little-known FYI channel is premiering "Kocktails With Khloe" on Jan. 20. The show, filmed in a replica of Kardashian's house, will feature celebrity guests and approximate dinner parties she throws at her home.

'Trainwreck,' 'Straight Outta Compton' snag writing nods

LOS ANGELES (AP) — "Spotlight" is dominating awards season, but the Writers Guild has recognized a diverse slate of films, including "Trainwreck" and "Straight Outta Compton." The organization on Wednesday announced its selections for the best in original and adapted screenplays. Nominated for original screenplay are Amy Schumer for her bawdy comedy "Trainwreck"; Jonathan Herman and Andrea Berloff for the N.W.A. biopic "Straight Outta Compton"; Josh Singer and Tom McCarthy for "Spotlight"; Taylor Sheridan for "Sicario"; and Matt Charman, Ethan Coen and Joel Coen for "Bridge of Spies." Those vying for best adapted screenplay are Aaron Sorkin for "Steve Jobs," Phyllis Nagy for "Carol," Drew Goddard for "The Martian," John McNamara for "Trumbo," and Charles Randolph and Adam McKay for "The Big Short." Winners will be announced at a ceremony in Los Angeles on Feb. 13.

Comedy Central, National Geographic pair up on sex series

PASADENA, Calif. (AP)—There's finally a subject to unite Comedy Central and the National Geographic Channel. You guessed it. Sex. Comic Nikki Glaser is the creator and host of "Not Safe," a new series that premieres on Comedy Central on Feb. 9. Glaser, who got a little enthusiastic about sharing personal stories on Wednesday, will talk sex. Among the topics covered in the series are foot fetishists and men who text pictures of their genitals. Glaser, a comic buddy of Amy Schumer's, interviews her parents about their sex life. Glaser said she talked about her supposed sex life in standup comedy before she actually did it for the first time, at age 21. Now she describes herself as a "curious perv." "I'm perverted in the sense that I'm always thinking about sex, I'm always talking about it," she said. "I'm kind of like a dude." The National Geographic Channel announced Wednesday that they had commissioned a six-episode series, "Original Sin: How Sex Changed the World," to air this summer.

BET announces miniseries on Nelson Mandela

PASADENA, Calif. (AP)—BET says it will air a miniseries about Nelson Mandela next year, with actor Laurence Fishburne portraying the late South African leader. Stephen Hill, the network's chief programming executive, said Wednesday the six-hour "Madiba" series is being made with the cooperation of Mandela's family. Mandela, the longtime prisoner of the apartheid system, became South Africa's first black president. He died in 2013 at age 95. BET moved into miniseries last year with "The Book of Negroes," about a girl who grew up in Africa who was sold into slavery in America.

DiCaprio happy leaders taking climate change more seriously

NEW YORK (AP)—Leonardo DiCaprio feels optimistic that the debate over climate change has begun to wane and world leaders are finally starting to take it more seriously.

"The scientific community has been screaming out loud. Ninety-nine per cent of the scientific community is in agreement that man is contributing to (climate change)," DiCaprio told The Associated Press on the red carpet for his new film, "The Revenant" on Wednesday.

"The argument is over. Anyone that doesn't believe that climate change is happening doesn't believe in science," said DiCaprio, who has remained an active player for the issue.

The actor previously has addressed the United Nations on climate control, donated millions of dollars to environmental causes, and narrated the 2014 short film, "Carbon," which presents ideas for climate change solutions.

But after the U.N. Climate Conference in Paris, which ended last month, he feels world leaders are finally willing to address the issue more seriously.

Janet Jackson says she's recovering, denies cancer

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Janet Jackson said she doesn't have cancer, but she isn't specifying the illness that interfered with a concert tour.

On her Twitter account Wednesday, Jackson posted a two-minute clip from her song "The Great Forever," followed by a personal message in which she said she's recovering but offered no further details. She said her doctors have approved her concerts as scheduled in Europe.

"The rumors are untrue. I do not have cancer. I'm recovering," she posted, an apparent response to online reports that she was suffering from throat cancer.

Her announcement came less than two weeks after Jackson said she was postponing her "Unbreakable" tour to have an unspecified surgical procedure. Jackson had been next scheduled to perform Saturday in Denver. She's scheduled to perform in Europe in March.

Her "Unbreakable" tour has been in the Top 20 global concert tour listing compiled by Pollstar.

Jackson is a member of one of pop music's royal families, sister of the late Michael Jackson and the Jackson Five. Her 1986 album "Control" made her a music star in her own right, a disc that spawned hits like "What Have You Done For Me Lately" and "Nasty."

The singer built a steadily successful career with hits like "If," ''All For You" and "That's the Way Love Goes." Last year she released the album "Unbreakable," her first new disc since 2008.

Actress Kerry Washington earns Harvard's Hasty Pudding award

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. (AP)—Actress Kerry Washington has been named woman of the year by Harvard University's Hasty Pudding Theatricals.

Hasty Pudding, the nation's oldest collegiate theatrical organization, announced Wednesday that it had selected Washington because she is a "talented and socially engaged film, TV and stage actress who keeps breaking barriers in Hollywood."

Washington, the first black woman to headline a network TV drama since 1974 as crisis management specialist Olivia Pope on the hit show "Scandal," has earned Golden Globe, Emmy and SAG Best Actress nominations as well as an NAACP Image Award for Best Actress.

AP

In this Dec. 6, 2015 file photo, actress Kerry Washington arrives at the 2015 Kennedy Center Honors reception in the East Room of the White House in Washington.

'Star Wars' becomes highest grossing domestic movie ever

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Move over, "Avatar," there's a new force in town. In just 20 days in theaters, "Star Wars: The Force Awakens" has unseated the James Cameron pic as the No. 1 North American movie of all time.

According to Disney, J.J. Abrams' "Star Wars" earned enough on Wednesday to pass "Avatar's" $760.5 million lifetime gross. As of Tuesday, the film was just shy of the record at $758.2 million.

The worldwide record still belongs to "Avatar," though, and that may continue. "The Force Awakens" has earned $1.6 billion to date, as compared to "Avatar's" $2.8 billion.

"Star Wars" will open in China on Jan. 9, which will give the film a significant boost, but some analysts are predicting that the film might now net out in the mid-$2 billion range.

AP

This photo provided by Disney/Lucasfilm shows Daisy Ridley as Rey in a scene from the film, "Star Wars: The Force Awakens," directed by J.J. Abrams.

Even Adele couldn't stop decline in album sales in 2015

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—Even though Adele broke records for album sales with "25," she couldn't stop overall record sales from continuing to decline in 2015 as consumers keep switching to on-demand streaming services.

According to Nielsen Music's 2015 year-end report, total album sales dropped 6.1 percent from 257 million in 2014 to 241.4 million in 2015. Even digital track sales declined 12.5 percent in 2015 compared to 2014.

The British singer drove fans to purchase over 7.4 million copies of her new album by keeping it off services like Spotify and Apple Music when it came out in November. She broke first-week sales records with 3.38 million albums sold and "25" became the first-ever album to sell over 1 million units in multiple weeks.

But overall that didn't stop music fans from surging to the on-demand streaming services, where activity increased by 92.8 percent in 2015 to over 317 billion audio and video streams.

Meanwhile, vinyl record sales marked a decade of growth in 2105 with an increase of 29.8 percent over 2014 to 11.9 million and accounted for nearly 9 percent of total physical album sales.

Helicopter mom turns girls' squabbles into adult irritation

DEAR ABBY: Do you think parents should intervene in arguments between 10-year-olds? My daughter, "Amy," was playing at a neighbor's house with two other girls and they had an argument over something stupid. The neighbor's daughter, "Kathy," started to cry, so her mother asked my daughter and the other girl to leave because they had upset Kathy. Afterward, she called and wanted me to punish my daughter for upsetting hers.

I didn't do it because I think 10-year-olds are old enough to make amends with each other. When Amy explained the situation, I concluded that Kathy started to cry because she didn't get what she wanted. The girls were playing with each other again two days later.

This isn't the first time this has happened, but it's annoying because they make a big deal out of it. Kathy is an only child and we have three children. What do you think about this?

AMY'S MOM IN ANTWERP, BELGIUM

DEAR AMY'S MOM: Hang onto your sense of humor and take "Helicopter Mom's" suggestions regarding parenting your child with a grain of salt. Kathy's mother means well, but she should stop trying to fight her daughter's battles for her.

DEAR ABBY: I have two brothers and two sisters. We all earned a modest but comfortable living and made plans for our retirement—except for one. He blew his money on cars, vacations and gambling. He retired as early as possible, and because of it he doesn't get much Social Security. Now he's broke.

He thinks one of us should take him in and complains that we are a "bad family" because no one has offered to let him live with us. None of our retirement plans were made with provisions for him. He is selfish, irritating and untrustworthy. I don't want to spend my retirement being miserable. What do I do?

RETIRED IN CHICAGO

DEAR RETIRED: If taking your irresponsible brother in would ensure that your retirement would be miserable, you shouldn't do it. Your brother has lived his life the way he wanted, without consideration for the consequences. If his retirement plan was gambling that you and your siblings would support him for his poor choices, it appears he has lost that bet, too. As a kindness, direct your brother to resources that help low-income seniors.

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I decided to go our separate ways and have filed for divorce. Although I moved out, we agreed to keep prior engagements. One of them is a trip to Europe to visit family and friends.

When we talked about traveling together, my understanding was that it meant sitting next to each other in the car and on the plane. Now he is making the hotel arrangements and has asked me if he should book a room with two beds or two separate rooms. This is confusing and it's making me feel awkward. How should I answer?

THE EX-MRS. IN MICHIGAN

DEAR EX-MRS.: Be honest. If the idea of sharing a room with your almost-ex-husband makes you uncomfortable, tell him you would prefer separate accommodations.

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

WHAT DID YOU BRING FOR SHOW AND TELL, SUSIE?
I BROUGHT A LETTER I WROTE TO OUR CONGRESSMAN.
WHAT DID YOU BRING?
A BAG OF DEAD BUGS I COLLECTED FROM OUR WINDOW SILLS.
BEST OF ALL, THIS WAY MOM DIDN'T HAVE TO PACK ME A LUNCH!
WATTERSON

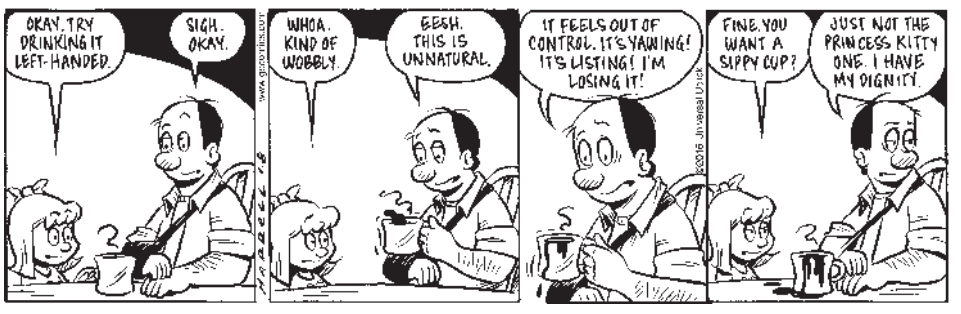
Garfield®

By Jim Davis

LIZ, LIFE IS LIKE A GIANT PAN OF LASAGNA...
AND GARFIELD GOT TO THE TABLE BEFORE WE DID
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING, JON?
WE'LL HAVE TO EAT OUT
BURP!
JIM DAVIS 1-8

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


OKAY. TRY DRINKING IT LEFT-HANDED.
SIGH. OKAY.
WHOA. KIND OF WOBBLY.
GEESH. THIS IS UNNATURAL.
IT FEELS OUT OF CONTROL. IT'S YAWNING! IT'S LISTING! I'M LOSING IT!
FINE. YOU WANT A SIPPY CUP?
JUST NOT THE PRINCESS KITTY ONE. I HAVE MY DIGNITY.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Terse scolding
4 Seductress
8 Killer whale
12 "Exodus" hero
13 Italian wine region
14 Pigeon calls
15 Basement table game
17 Pack (down)
18 Blunder
19 Tedious talkers
20 Charlatan
22 Trade
24 Sci-fi vehicles
25 Personal charm
29 Calendar abbr.
30 Saloon swingers
31 "I think, therefore —"
32 Sandwich filler
34 Con
35 Genesis shepherd
36 Sledded in the Winter Olympics
37 Crypts
40 Hair goops
41 Healing plant
42 Lively party
46 Christian of fashion
47 Needle case
48 Prefix with natal
49 Aardvark's snacks
50 Optimum
51 Prattle

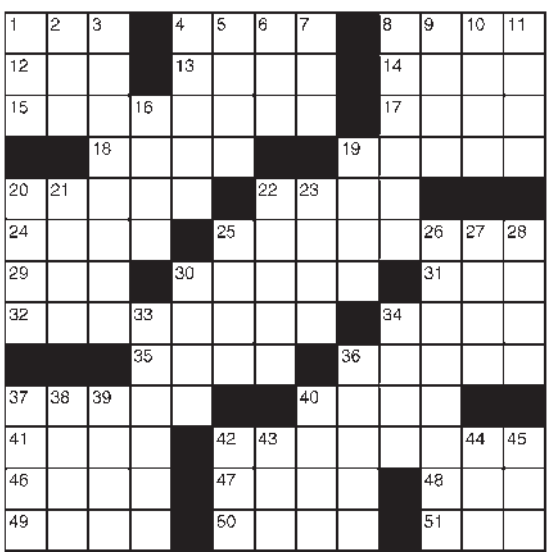
DOWN

1 Pub spigot
2 — Lanka
3 Great ape of film
4 Humidifier output
5 Starting on
6 Everest, for one (Abbr.)
7 Squealer
8 Well-armed sea creatures
9 Big laugh
10 Arrive
11 Nile coilers
16 Leaves
19 Chocolate units
20 Show ire
21 In — (dazed)
22 Sand bar
23 Hospital area
25 Composer Porter
26 Storied New York prison
27 Chess win
28 During
30 Ointment amounts
33 Fencing weapons
34 "— Lang Syne"
36 On the up and up
37 "I did it!"
38 Actress Lena
39 Not worth debating
40 Kenyan beasts
42 Woven trap
43 Suffix with Brooklyn
44 PBS funder
45 Sailor

Solution time: 25 mins.

C	-	O	G	■	R	E	F	■	C	H	A	P
R	A	V	I	■	E	M	I	■	R	O	M	E
E	W	E	R	■	P	U	G	■	E	T	O	N
E	N	R	A	G	E	■	L	Y	E	S	■	■
■	■	■	F	A	L	S	E	A	L	A	R	M
L	C	A	F	S	■	N	A	M	■	U	T	A
A	N	N	E	■	O	A	F	■	A	C	E	D
S	C	N	■	R	B	I	■	C	B	E	S	E
T	R	U	E	C	O	L	O	R	S	■	■	■
■	■	A	-	A	■	■	I	S	O	-	D	E
G	A	L	A	■	S	T	L	■	L	A	I	R
B	O	L	T	■	■	E	■	■	V	I	C	I
S	K	Y	E	■	S	A	D	■	E	D	E	N

Yesterday's answer 1-8



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955!** 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Gaby Hoffmann, 34; Sarah Polley, 37; David Bowie, 69; Stephen Hawking, 74.

Happy Birthday: Think before you act. Not everyone you deal with will be honorable. Stick to a budget and refuse to let anyone talk you into committing to more than you can handle. Protect your health, your possessions and your money. Don't donate, lend or borrow. Make sure that you and your loved ones are taken care of first and foremost. Your numbers are 6, 11, 21, 28, 34, 36, 44.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Accept whatever changes come your way, and look for how you can benefit from the results. Self-improvement and finding a way to resolve a chronic health or financial matter are favored. Plan a romantic evening with someone you love. ✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Avoid getting into a spat over something that will not help you get ahead or overcome a dilemma. Offer diplomatic suggestions, and make sure to complete any task you are responsible for. A business or pleasure trip will be revealing. ✪✪✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): You'll face difficulties with colleagues or people offering misleading information. Do your own research to avoid making a costly mistake. Self-improvement projects will bring good results. A personal relationship will face a critical moment. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Check out courses that will expand your knowledge, resume or friendships. Getting out and doing something different will lead to ongoing activities and events that will improve your lifestyle. Host a gathering and an interesting prospect will arise. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Discuss business matters and bring about changes to your work situation. Don't dance around a topic that needs to be dealt with in order to advance. Be willing to make changes. Celebrate your courage and take a stance. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Participate in work-related events. Getting along with the people you do business with will help you advance, but may cause a problem for someone you are in a personal relationship with. Include your partner if you can to avoid trouble. ✪✪✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Don't let your emotions lead to a spat with someone you live with. Overreacting or taking things the wrong way could result in an unwanted change that will be difficult to undo. Focus on personal improvement, not on trying to change others. ✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Think twice before letting someone who caused problems for you in the past come back into your life. Revenge is a waste of time, but getting ahead and focusing on your own success will bring peace of mind and satisfaction. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Be careful how you handle work-related matters, and protect your reputation by keeping tabs on everything that transpires along with honoring any promises you've made along the way. A diplomatic approach will pay off. Romance is in the stars. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): You can wheel and deal, but don't get involved with people who want you to pay for services while offering little in return. Avoid joint ventures if you want to avoid loss and come out ahead. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Schedule plans with someone you want to spend more time with. Making decisions that will affect your home, family and future will result in some disagreements, but compromise will solve any roadblocks you face. Romance is encouraged. ✪✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Take better care of your health and don't make personal changes that have the potential to lead to limitations. Nurture partnerships and make a point to focus on generosity in order to reach equality. ✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are an entrepreneurial, progressive dreamer. You are skillful and engaging.

*Eugenia's website—**eugenialast.com**, Eugenia's android app @ **http://bit.ly/exhoro** and join Eugenia on **twitter/facebook/linkedin**.*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	1				3			
				4		9		8
	7	2				5		
5				9				
	9						2	
				3				4
		1				2	7	
3		9		8				
			6				3	

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 1/08

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

2	5	1	4	3	6	8	7	9
7	4	6	9	5	8	1	3	2
3	8	9	7	2	1	5	4	6
8	3	7	1	4	9	2	6	5
9	1	5	2	6	3	7	8	4
4	6	2	8	7	5	3	9	1
1	2	4	3	9	7	6	5	8
5	9	3	6	8	2	4	1	7
6	7	8	5	1	4	9	2	3

Difficulty Level ★★★ 1/07

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WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

ON A COLLEGE CAMPUS Solution: 10 letters

S	E	S	E	T	A	G	K	F	R	A	T	F	R	N
R	R	P	E	R	A	C	D	L	I	H	C	I	E	C
A	U	O	A	G	A	M	E	S	I	N	N	E	T	E
N	T	R	S	R	N	T	E	A	M	S	R	L	A	N
I	C	T	T	S	K	U	F	L	O	G	L	D	E	T
M	E	S	G	M	E	I	O	E	S	N	A	S	H	E
E	L	T	R	A	U	F	N	L	N	I	B	P	T	R
S	H	U	T	T	L	E	O	G	A	D	O	A	N	S
R	O	D	U	I	S	L	S	R	L	L	R	M	O	U
E	C	E	R	H	C	U	E	U	P	I	A	F	I	P
C	K	N	F	A	T	L	P	R	M	U	T	R	D	P
C	E	T	P	L	A	Z	A	M	Y	B	O	O	A	O
O	Y	S	L	L	A	B	E	S	A	B	R	A	R	R
S	E	I	R	A	R	B	I	L	S	C	Y	D	Y	T
F	O	O	T	B	A	L	L	A	C	R	O	S	S	E

©2015 Universal Uclick www.wonderword.com Download the Wonderword Game App! 1/8

Baseball, Buildings, Campus, Centers, Child Care, Class, Fields, Football, Gallery, Games, Gates, Golf, Green, Hall, Hockey, Laboratory, Lacrosse, Lecture, Libraries, Lounge, Maps, Museum, Parking, Plans, Plaza, Professors, Radio, Roads, Seminars, Shuttle, Soccer, Softball, Sports, Students, Support, Teams, Tennis, Theater, Track, Turf

Yesterday's Answer: Cosmopolitan

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CLASSIFIED ADS

EMPLOYMENT

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---

1 Cook (Korean cuisine): $6.05/hr. At least 1 year of professional cooking experience in Korean cuisine required. Email resume to wing@hanmisaipan.com.

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(3) Fishermen, (1) Driver. Minimum salary. Send resume to SMJ Corporation. P.O. Box 503944 Saipan, MP 96950.

General Maintenance Worker. High school diploma or equivalent with at least 3 years' experience especially in general construction. Must have some basic knowledge and troubleshooting experience in plumbing, masonry, carpentry and other general maintenance work. Must be able to lift and move construction supplies and objects. Must be willing to work flexible hours including evenings, holidays and weekends. Send resume to GMA Corp at P.O. Box 503317, Saipan MP 96950 or email to noel96950@yahoo.com

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1-Webmaster. $12/hour, minimum 3 years experience. Must be able to manage websites with Korean and Chinese content. Email resume to usptvp@gmail.com before January 12, 2016. US PACIFIC TIMES CORPORATION, P.O. Box 505049, Saipan, MP 96950.

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- Requires a Master's or Doctorate degree in Educational Administration or equivalent

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Saipan Tribune

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(5) Electrician - $6.05/hr.
(12) Mason - $6.05/hr.

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Tel #: 234-9127
Email: brian@pticom.com

Vacancy Announcement

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JVA for YANO Enterprises, Inc.

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Cook (3): Must be experienced & skilled in preparing Japanese cuisine including but not limited to sushi, sashimi, & tempura. Can prepare all menu items according to quantity menus, must know cutting and preparation techniques for each type of fish used in sushi rolls as well as how to prepare rice, sauces and seasonal ingredients, must ensure that ingredients are fresh, colorful and always in stock, that the all-important knives are sharp and clean, and that all equipment is in working order. Must be able to maintain kitchen & observe safety & sanitary food handling practices as well as other related duties.

Additional Requirements: All applicants must be of good health and have a good moral character, must be able to follow grooming standards, must be able to provide required food handler health certificate, must be able to provide current police clearance, with reliable transportation and must agree to drug test. Must be willing to work on flexible hours, shifts, evening, holiday and weekends. Applicants of positions listed above are required to have a minimum of 6 months to a year experience. Applications can be picked up at Kinpachi Restaurant in Coral Tree Avenue, Garapan.

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Saipan Tribune **235-6397**

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AYD Services Inc. Tel.# 235-7011

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AYD Services Inc. Tel.# 235-7011

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Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

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Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

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Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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Find today's solution in classified section

James, Irving lead Cavaliers to 5th straight victory

WASHINGTON (AP)—While the Washington Wizards try to promote John Wall's case for the NBA All-Star Game, Kyrie Irving put on a show to illustrate why the Cleveland Cavaliers think he should get the nod.

Irving scored 21 of his season-best 32 points in the fourth quarter of the Cavaliers' fifth straight victory, 121-115 at the Washington Wizards on Wednesday night.

While LeBron James had 34 points, Irving scored 10 points in a row in the fourth quarter and showed no ill effects from the injury that ended his 2015 playoffs and postponed his season debut until mid-December. Despite playing in just seven games this season, Irving looks like an All-Star to James.

"At the end of the day, it doesn't matter how many games, he's an All-Star player," James said. "He's much more than just an all-star. He's much better than that. He's 23 years old, and he hasn't even scratched the surface yet.

Irving had a 25-point game Monday night at home against Toronto, and it looks as if he's in midseason form.

"Those are two pretty big performances after being out for so long," Cleveland coach David Blatt said. "It's only reasonable to expect that he's going to go through a process and still have days when he's better and days when he's going to have some effect of the many months that he was out. But it sure didn't look like that tonight."

Irving turned the ball over to Nene early in the fourth quarter, which led to a layup by Ramon Sessions that tied it. Irving then reeled off 10 consecutive points while the Cavaliers' defense got some timely stops.

His fourth-quarter performance certainly caught the attention of his teammates, who see how much Irving is improving in the weeks since he returned.

"It was nuts," said guard J.R. Smith, who hit five 3-pointers and had 25 points. "To do what he's doing nine or 10 months to get back and still be able to come out there and shake and bake like he's doing it's remarkable."

The Wizards had one of their best offensive performances of the season, but their defensive letdowns proved frustrating.

"We did a bad job of knowing personnel in certain spots of who we wanted to shoot the ball," Wizards forward Jared Dudley said. "I thought we scored enough to win the game. ... Overall, not enough stops to win."

James hit 3-pointers on four of five possessions, and the lead got to 18 at one point. But the Wizards came back enough to put a scare into the Eastern Conference-leading Cavs.

"Isn't that the beautiful thing about NBA basketball? An 18-point lead can go away in the drop of the hat, because the other guy's good and Washington was good tonight," Blatt said. "That wasn't an easy game."

Except Irving made it look easy. Still, he understands this is still a process of getting back into form.

"The first few games were just being able to solidify myself back in the league and being an elite athlete and get around guards," Irving said. "That was the hump I needed to get over, and now I think I'm starting to get over it going from game to game going against great matchups, great players every single night, great teams."

Knicks 98, Heat 90

In Miami, Carmelo Anthony scored 25 points and New York shot 56 percent to end a streak of eight consecutive losses to Miami.

Anthony made 9 for 12. In his first two games against the Heat, Anthony shot 10 for 29 and totaled 32 points.

Robin Lopez added a season-high 19 points for the Knicks, who won their third game in a row.

Chris Bosh scored 28 points for the Heat.

Thunder 112, Grizzlies 94

In Oklahoma City, Kevin Durant had 26 points and a season-high 17 rebounds after missing the previous game with a sprained right big toe, and Oklahoma beat Memphis.

Durant, who began the day as the NBA's No. 3 scorer, broke loose for 17 points in the second half on 7-for-8 shooting. He played 33 minutes and appeared to have no problems with mobility.

Russell Westbrook added 20 points, seven rebounds and seven assists for the Thunder.

Mario Chalmers led the Grizzlies with 23 points.

Mavericks 100, Pelicans 91

In New Orleans, Raymond Felton scored 22 points in a game Dallas chose to rest four starters, and the Mavericks defeated New Orleans.

Dallas coach Rick Carlisle sat out Dirk Nowitzki, Deron Williams, Zaza Pachulia and Wesley Matthews after they each played 40-plus minutes in a double-overtime victory over Sacramento on Tuesday night.

AP
Cleveland Cavaliers guard Kyrie Irving (2) shoots in front of Washington Wizards guard Ramon Sessions (7) during the first half of an NBA basketball game, Wednesday, Jan. 6, 2016, in Washington.

Chandler Parsons, the only usual starter in uniform, scored 19 of his 21 in the first half.

Anthony Davis had 26 points and 12 rebounds for the Pelicans.

Spurs 123, Jazz 98

In San Antonio, Tim Duncan scored a season-high 18 points and San Antonio had eight other players in double figures to beat Utah and remain unbeaten at home.

The Spurs matched the best start in franchise history by winning their 21st straight home game to open the season.

Trey Burke had 21 points for the Jazz and Gordon Hayward had 18.

Clippers 109, Trail Blazers 98

In Portland, Oregon, Chris Paul had 21 points and 19 assists to lead Los Angeles past Portland.

The Clippers won their seventh straight game despite the absence of Blake Griffin, who has missed six games because of a partially torn left quadreiceps tendon. DeAndre Jordan had 14 points and 14 rebounds.

Damian Lillard had 20 points and nine assists for Portland. The Trail Blazers were without guard CJ McCollum because of a "clerical error." McCollum was mistakenly left off the team's active roster that is turned in before the game. Although the Blazers initially said that McCollum was active, he did not start. The team announced he was inactive shortly before halftime.

Pacers 95, Magic 86

In Orlando, Florida, Paul George had 20 points and Monta Ellis scored nine of his 19 in the fourth quarter, leading Indiana over Orlando.

George, who scored at least 31 points in his previous three games, shot 5 of 13 but led a second-quarter rally that put the Pacers ahead for good.

It was the Pacers' sixth straight victory (two this season) against the Magic, who have lost four in a row overall.

Raptors 91, Nets 74

In New York, Jonas Valanciunas had 22 points and 11 rebounds, and Toronto handed Brooklyn its eighth straight home loss.

Kyle Lowry had 17 points, eight rebounds and six assists. He made all seven shots inside the arc but was 0 for 7 from 3-point range as the Raptors bounced back after giving up nearly 120 points per game in consecutive losses to Chicago and Cleveland.

The Nets haven't won at Barclays Center since beating Philadelphia on Dec. 10. Brook Lopez had 24 points and 13 rebounds for Brooklyn.

Pistons 99, Celtics 94

In Boston, Reggie Jackson 24 points, Kentavious Caldwell-Pope finished with 20 and Detroit beat Boston.

Isaiah Thomas led the Celtics with 22 points, scoring their final 15 over the last 7:24 after missing 14 of his first 15 shots.

Suns 111, Hornets 102

In Phoenix, Mirza Teletovic made five of the Suns' season-high 19 3-pointers as Phoenix ended a nine-game skid by beating Charlotte.

Brandon Knight added 18 points and seven assists for the Suns.

Kemba Walker had 25 points to lead the Hornets, who lost their fifth straight.

Nuggets 78, Timberwolves 74

In Minneapolis, Danilo Gallinari had 20 points, seven rebounds and four assists to help Denver end a six-game losing streak with a victory over Minnesota.

Jusuf Nurkic had 15 points and 10 rebounds, and the Nuggets overcame 35.8 percent shooting by hitting eight of 20 3-pointers. Denver had lost nine of its previous 10 games.

Karl-Anthony Towns had 14 points and 14 rebounds, and Nikola Pekovic scored 12 points in his season debut for the reeling Timberwolves. Minnesota has lost four straight games and eight of nine.

McCollum inactive by mistake on pregame roster, misses game

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP)—Guard CJ McCollum was inadvertently left off the Trail Blazers' active roster that was turned in before Wednesday night's game against the Los Angeles Clippers, making Portland's second leading scorer ineligible to play.

The Clippers beat the Blazers 109-98.

Afterward, coach Terry Stotts took full responsibility for the error.

"I signed the paper without really noticing it, but it's my fault for not looking at it. Although we caught the error, we thought we'd caught it in time, apparently we did not, so CJ was ruled inactive, and that's that."

The situation caused confusion at the start of the game. The Blazers initially said it was a mistake and McCollum was indeed active, but then Allen Crabbe started in his place.

McCollum was dressed and on the Blazers' bench at the start of the game. Luis Montero, listed as active on the roster, was in street clothes. McCollum retreated to the locker room following the first quarter.

Late in the half, the team announced that McCollum was inactive for the game, and Montero was active.

The team cited a "clerical error in the NBA's active list reporting." Active rosters are due 60 minutes before game time, and are signed by the head coaches.

The Blazers contacted the league when they realized the mistake but were told that it was too late to change the roster.

"The sheet came back to me, along with the Clippers, and that's when I noticed it," Stotts said. "And honestly, I think we got it in—the rule is to get it in 60 minutes before tipoff —and I thought we got it under the 60 minutes but apparently we did not."

McCollum is second on the Blazers with 21 points per game. He said he was unclear about the situation until the starting lineups were announced in player introductions just before the start.

He called it all "unfortunate."

"It's in the past. Putting it in the past now. Nothing you can do about it now. Just got to move in and try to get a win (against Golden State) on Friday," he said.

The Clippers mistakenly left Danny Granger off the active list in a March 2014 game against the Pelicans and he had to sit.

"We've made that error twice in the last two years," Clippers coach Doc Rivers said. "One we had just signed a guy right before the game."

Rivers also questioned the process.

"There should be no 'Active List,'" he said. "I've been fighting this for three years. If someone can explain to me why there is an active list, I'd love to hear it. We can't get it changed and as coaches it's tough."

Griffey elected to Hall with highest percentage, Piazza in

NEW YORK (AP)—Ken Griffey Jr. was considered Mr. Clean during 22 years in the major leagues, untainted by accusations of drug use as he climbed the home-run list during the height of the Steroids Era.

He nearly made a clean sweep in Hall of Fame voting.

Griffey received 437 of 440 votes in his first appearance on the Baseball Writers' Association of America ballot, a record 99.3 percent.

"It's real simple," he explained after Wednesday's announcement. "I've always said that I've got to look my kids in the eyes and you want to play fair."

Mike Piazza, the top offensive catcher in baseball history, was elected, too, and will be inducted along with Griffey in Cooperstown on July 24. Among the many muscled sluggers whose accomplishments were questioned during a time when chemists preyed on clubhouses, Piazza was made to wait until his fourth appearance on the ballot. After falling 28 votes shy last year, he was selected on 365 (83 percent).

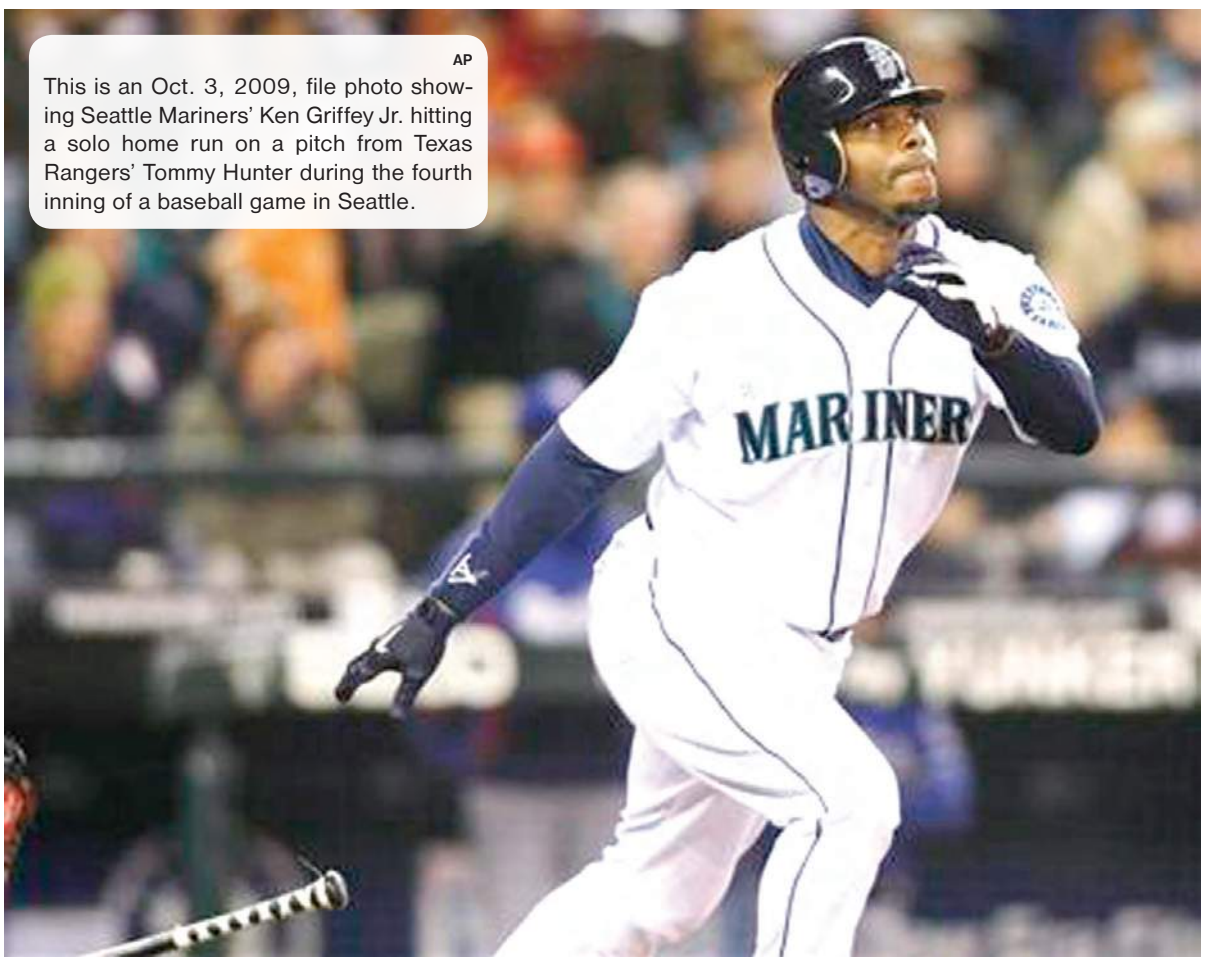
He wouldn't say whether he was upset about being sullied by suspicions.

"That's the freedom we have," Piazza maintained. "You can say these things, and that's the country we live in."

Griffey topped the previous high percentage of 98.84, set when Tom Seaver appeared on 425 of 430 ballots in 1992. The identities of the three writers who did not vote for Griffey was not immediately known.

"I can't be upset," he said. "It's just an honor to be elected, and to have the highest percentage is definitely a shock."

A player needs to appear on 75 percent of ballots to gain election. Jeff Bagwell missed by 15 votes and Tim Raines by 23. Trevor Hoffman, second on the career saves list and appearing on the ballot for the first time, was 34 short.



AP

This is an Oct. 3, 2009, file photo showing Seattle Mariners' Ken Griffey Jr. hitting a solo home run on a pitch from Texas Rangers' Tommy Hunter during the fourth inning of a baseball game in Seattle.

Total ballots dropped by 109 from last year after writers who have not been active for 10 years were eliminated under a rules change by the Hall's board of directors. With a younger average electorate, Roger Clemens rose to 45 percent and Barry Bonds to 44 percent, both up from about 37 percent last year. Clemens has denied using performance-enhancing drugs, and Bonds said he never knowingly took any banned substances.

"They were Hall of Famers before all this stuff started," Griffey said.

Mark McGwire, who admitted using steroids, received 12 percent in his 10th and final ballot appearance.

Half of baseball's top 10 home run hitters are not in the Hall: Bonds (762), Alex Rodriguez (654), Jim Thome (612), Sammy Sosa (609) and McGwire (583). Rodriguez, who served a yearlong drug suspension in 2014, remains active. Thome's first appearance on the ballot will be in 2018.

Griffey believes drug-testing, which began in baseball in 2003, should eliminate the possibility of stigma for the current generation of players.

"There won't be any questions and you'll know from here on out," he said.

Some players who admitted using steroids claimed they chose the needle because of pressure to compete. Griffey said he never was tempted.

"I also had a dad that said you're never going to be the biggest, you're never going to be the strongest and you're never going to be the fastest," he said. "There's always going to be someone in each of those categories, but the one thing they can't do is outwork you."

"I never really worried about what somebody else was doing, because it was out of my control," he added. "I was already popular. It wasn't that I needed to jump out and surprise people."

Griffey and Piazza had contrasting treks to stardom. Griffey was selected first in the 1987 amateur draft and became the first No. 1 to make the Hall. Piazza was taken by the Los Angeles Dodgers with the 1,390th pick on the 62nd round in 1988; since the draft started in 1965, the lowest draft pick elected to the Hall had been John Smoltz, taken with selection 574 on the 22nd round in 1985.

"It crystalizes how special this game is," Piazza said. "It separates it from other sports. Athletic talent definitely helps, but it's not the only thing that can make you successful."

Griffey was known simply as "Junior" by many as a contrast to his father, three-time All-Star outfielder Ken Griffey, who played alongside him in Seattle during 1990 and '91. The younger Griffey became a 13-time All-Star outfielder and finished with 630 homers, sixth on the career list. After reaching the major leagues in 1989, he was selected for 11 consecutive All-Star Games in 1990.

Wanting to play closer to his home in Florida, he pushed for a trade to Cincinnati—his father's old team and the area he grew up in- after the 1999 season. But slowed by injuries, he never reached 100 RBIs again after his first season with the Reds, and he moved on to the Chicago White Sox in 2008 before spending his last season-plus with the Mariners.

Griffey is likely to become the first player in the Hall with a Mariners cap. He wouldn't say whether his bronze plaque should portray the look he's most known for.

"I haven't really thought about the hat backwards," he said.

Piazza said he was directed not to speak about the hat on his plaque, which ultimately is decided by the Hall. After reaching the major leagues with the Los Angeles Dodgers in 1992, Piazza was dealt to Florida in May 1998 before he could become a free agent, then traded eight days later to the Mets.

He played for the Mets' 2000 National League champions and remained with New York through 2005, hitting a memorable go-ahead home run in the first game in the city following the 2001 terrorist attacks. During a career that ended with San Diego in 2006 and Oakland the following year, he hit better than .300 in nine straight seasons and finishing with 427 home runs, including a record 396 when he was in the game behind the plate. A 12-time All-Star, Piazza had a .308 career batting average.

While 6-foot-3, Piazza claims to not have a distinctive athletic body.

"When you see a basketball guy out there or a football guy, you kind of know it," he said. "And baseball guys, I think that's why the public relates to us."

Ol'Aces nip Sonics; Kagman routs Chow Time

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Kagman Poksu's Esther Jones, left, is tightly guarded by Chow Time's Marla Buenabajo during the second half of their game in the Tan Holdings holiday caging yesterday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

The Ol'Aces and Kagman Poksu registered contrasting wins in the 2015 Tan Holdings Christmas Basketball Tournament yesterday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

The Ol'Aces eked out a 46-44 victory against the Sonics in the boys U19 division, while Kagman Poksu eased past Chow Time, 33-7, in the women's pairing.

Jerald Castillo hit the dagger for the Ol'Aces, converting a triple from the top key in the closing seconds of the match. The Ol'Aces are now 2-0 to share the early lead with the Rollers 1, while the Sonics dropped to a 1-1 record.

It was a come-from-behind win for the Ol'Aces, as they faced a 7-point deficit at the half, 18-25.

The Sonics took the upper hand in the first half behind the combined 16 points of Ronnie Sto. Domingo and Gerald Flores.

Both Flores and Sto. Domingo were then held scoreless in the second half, allowing the Ol'Aces to mount a comeback and stole the win.

In the women's division game, Kagman Poksu led right at the get-go en route to the 26-point winning margin.

Again, Chow Time's lack of offensive firepower sealed the doom for the squad early, as it failed to hit the board in the first half, while Kagman scored 17 with multiple players contributing to the winning squad's cause.

Chow Time finally lit up the board at the 8:24 mark of the second half off a triple from Kimmy Ocampo, but it only nailed two more baskets after that to absorb its second loss in as many games.

Kagman got its first victory after losing its debut to Mt. Carmel School, 23-62, during the tournament's opening day late last month.

First Game

Ol'Aces 46 – Olopai 9, Castillo 7, SAralu 6, Atan 6, Nakashima 4, Kabiriel 4, B. Norita 3, Iba 3, D. Norita 2.

Sonics 44 – Flores 10, Sto. Domingo 8, Ong 7, Castro 6, Bondoc 3.

Scoring by halves: 18-25, 46-44.

Second Game

Kagman Poksu 33 – Takami 10, El. Jones 6, Muna 6, Es. Jones 4, J. Jones 4, Agulto 3.

Chow Time 7 – Ocampo 3, C. Avelino 2, Cubangbang 2.

Scoring by halves: 17-0, 33-7.

Buccaneers fire coach Lovie Smith after two seasons

TAMPA, Fla. (AP)—Jameis Winston had a strong rookie season, and the Tampa Bay Buccaneers tripled their victory total from the previous year. Still, it wasn't enough to save coach Lovie Smith's job.

Smith was fired Wednesday night after going 6-10 this season, 8-24 overall in two years running a team that has missed the playoffs eight consecutive years.

The late-night announcement came as a surprise because Smith's job was not considered to be in danger after the Bucs improved from two wins and landing the No. 1 overall draft pick in his first season to rebounding from a slow start to briefly contend for a wild-card berth with a rookie quarterback starting every game.

"This decision was difficult on a variety of levels," Buccaneers Co-Chairman Joel Glazer said in a statement. "I am disappointed that we were not more successful these past few seasons, but we are committed to doing what is necessary to give our fans the winning team they deserve. "

General manager Jason Licht will oversee the search for a new coach.

Smith led the Chicago Bears to the NFC title in 2006, when they lost to Indianapolis in the Super Bowl. He was 84-66 in nine seasons with Chicago.

The Bucs showed some improvement this season with Winston joining Andrew Luck and Cam Newton as the only players since the 1970 NFL/AFL merger to throw for 4,000 yards as rookies. But they lost five of their last six games, including the final four to finish last in the NFC South for the fifth straight season.

"I don't think any of us would say that we've met our expectations. We had high hopes when I took over the franchise. You just can't build a program overnight," Smith said earlier this week, reflecting on the progress the team made over two seasons under his guidance.

CUC

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teammates, including George Poquiz, who nailed 5 of his 9 markers in the payoff period, including a pair of free throws that sealed the win for CUC.

CUC was clinging to a 1-point lead, 77-76, after a split from Manglona when MBI/KFC failed to cash in on its offensive set and then fouled Poquiz in the ensuing play. After Poquiz made the important charities, MBI/KFC was left with three seconds to pull up for a shot, but failed to do so as it fumbled the ball and time expired.

MBI/KFC folded up in the fourth frame as fatigue took its toll o nthe favored team. MBI/KFC played with only six players and was down to 5 points midway in the second quarter as Justine Zapanta got injured when he fell down after a rebound play. Gassed out, MBI/KFC scored only 12 points in the fourth period for its least productive quarter in the contest.

On the other hand, CUC more than doubled-up MBI/KFC's output with Manglona drawing help from his four other teammates.

In the second half, Joeten poured 16 unanswered points in the fourth quarter to finish off Docomo.

Before its pivotal run, Joeten squandered an 11-point advantage late in the third period, 50-39, when Docomo had an 8-1 windup in the last two minutes of the penultimate quarter.

In the final canto, Sid Quan opened Joeten's scoring with a baseline jumper and his teammates joined the spree for a commanding 67-47 spread.

A split free throw from Tony Diaz at the 5:10 mark of the final frame ended Docomo's long silence and the team finally got its first field goal in that period a few seconds later off Diaz's fastbreak layup.

The Docomo guard picked up more garbage points in the ensuing plays, while Juanito Sambile put the finishing touches in Joeten's victory, firing the team's last 9 markers.

Game 1 of the Joeten-CUC semis showdown will be played tonight at 8pm, while Tan Holdings and McDonald's will begin their own Final Four duel at 6:30pm.

First Game

CUC 79 – Manglona 23, Benavente 14, Santos 10, Simada 9, Poquiz 9, Lieto 8, Nunez 6.

MBI/KFC 76 – Devero 30, Capalad 19, Omampo 13, Zapanta 4, Sitchon 4, Viola 4.

Scoring by quarters: 22-19, 41-46, 50-64, 79-76.

Second Game

Joeten 76 – Lauron 22, Kwon 20, Sambile 14, Rasa 12, Quan 8.

Docomo 62 – Diaz 25, Manibusan 10, Griffin 8, Sablan 4, White 4, Sanciangco 3, Sanchez 2, Joson 2, Lizama 2.

Scoring by quarters: 18-11, 33-24, 51-47, 76-62.

DL caging eyes February opening

The DL Corp Invitational Basketball League Season 5 is hoping to open mid next month at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

League coordinator Sonny Ebuen said that at least eight teams have confirmed their participation in the league, including defending champion San Antonio, which will get free uniforms from organizers this season.

Games will be played every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday.

For more information, contact Ebuen at 989-3790. ***(PR)***

NMSA

From Page 28

of the bids from Jan. 22 to Jan. 29 to give the contractors more time to come up with a respectable offer.

Once the contract is awarded to a winning bidder, NMHC and NMSA are expecting the project—if no more problems arise— to be completed by the end of June or just before the start of the rainy season.

The contractor must have 10 years of experience in doing similar projects is one of the requirements that are written on the bid packets given by NMHC.

Mafnas said they don't want the resurfacing to be stopped in case the money that they will be providing would not be enough to finish the entire project.

She added that they are just thinking of possible scenarios that might happen since they don't want to fund a project that would be stopped and won't be completed.

"We don't want to start a project that would be stopped midway after we learned that there will be shortage of funds. We just don't want to fund a project that would be half-baked," said Mafnas.

"The track must be in excellent condition since that's the reason why we're funding the project and to prepare it for public use and for future events."

NMHC is funding the project after NMSA became eligible to receive $965,000 through the Community Development Block Grant. Eighty percent of the money is allocated for the resurfacing of the track while the remaining 20 percent or $193,000 is reserved for administrative work.

Barnes said if in case the project would not yet push through, they have no choice but to temporarily close the track facility for the public's safety.

If there's no project, then we have to close down the track because it has a lot of cracks and bubbles. It is not safe for public use and people might trip or get hurt if they continue to use it," added Barnes.

One solution that could be done is to ask the Governor's Office for additional funding and NMSA must do this before the project start.

Rogolifoi said they welcome Mafnas' suggestion since it would really nice to finally see and use the new track oval.

"That's what they [NMHC] are asking us to do. To have a back-up, what if there's a lack of funds. We must be prepared for this," said Rogolifoi.

"[NMHC] is just reminding us that, what if the winning bidder is over the budget. That's why we need to look for additional funding. That is just our main concern for now," he added.

Rogolifoi said that they would ask for a meeting with Gov. Ralph DLG Torres to ask for additional funds from the government.

"We'll wait for the funeral of the late governor Eloy S. Inos, and then we're going to ask Gov. Torres. We're sure we can get a positive response since the track is one of the most used facilities here," added Rogolifoi.

NMSA is in the process of having the track resurfaced after black patches, bubbles, and cracks could be seen on the rubber surface of the decade-old facility. The resurfacing is part of their project to prepare Saipan's sports facilities in time for the island's hosting of the 2021 Pacific Mini Games.

MIYAWAKI

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the opening round, she will earn the right to face the No. 3 seed Julia Ramos in the quarterfinals.

Heras is joined in the girls U16 singles main draw by three other Pacific Oceania players—Fiji's Ruby Coffin and Vienna Kumar and Samoa's Anasis Saipele.

In the doubles, Heras will partner with Saipele and they will play against three other pairs in a round-robin contest. The tandems of Coffin and Kumar, Ramos and Lewis, and Annaliese Quarisa and Alison Triggs complete the doubles field.

Meanwhile, the two CNMI players also suited up for the Pacific Oceania crew in the team event of the same tournament, which started yesterday, but results of their matches were unavailable at press time.

Heras and Miyawaki were selected on the elite team for their impressive performance in the North Pacific Regional Championships and the Pacific Oceania Junior Championships last year. They were the second batch of Commonwealth players who left Saipan in the last two months to compete in Australia. Last month, Carol Lee, Tania Ta, Robbie Schorr, Ken Song, and Conatsu Kaga were in Melbourne and represented the Pacific GSDF Touring Team to the individual and team competitions in the 2015 14/U and 12/U Australian Championships.

2015 Christmas Youth Futsal Tournament U15 Finals

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Astig and Fake Madrid players and game officials exchange high-fives before the start of the co-ed U15 division finals in the 2015 Christmas Youth Futsal Tournament last Sunday at the TSL Sports Complex.

Astig's Alan Hinson, second left, and Fake Madrid's Lyka Sally, right, run after the ball.

Astig goalie John Bucayo kicks the ball out to prevent Fake Madrid from scoring off a penalty kick.

Fake Madrid players huddle before their title match against Astig.

Astig players talk before the start of the second half of their game against Fake Madrid.

Fake Madrid's Lyka Sally checks the position of her teammates and opponents before making any move.

Astig's Joshua De Leon, right, dribbles, in front of Fake Madrid's Sunjoon Tenorio.

Fake Madrid's Sunjoon Tenorio, second left, sneaks behind Joshua De Leon to try and steal the possession.

Astig's Gillian Villagomez, left, kicks the ball against two Fake Madrid defenders.

James, Irving lead Cavaliers to 5th straight victory

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Griffey elected to Hall with highest percentage, Piazza in

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CUC, Joeten complete semis cast

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Joeten's Juanito Sambile drives to the basket against Docomo players during their game in the 2nd JP World Corp. Customer Appreciation Basketball League last Wednesday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Commonwealth Utilities Corp. and Joeten arranged their semis series in the 2nd JP World Corp. Customer Appreciation Basketball League after prevailed in their respective playoff games last Wednesday night at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

The seventh-seeded CUC stunned the second-ranked MBI/KFC in the first game, 79-76, while the No. 3 ranked Joeten cruised past No. 6 Docomo, 76-62, in the second match to complete the semis cast. Top-ranked Tan Holdings and fifth-seeded McDonald's had earlier set their best-of-three semis duel after eliminating Mariana Resort and Saipan Ice, respectively, last Monday.

CUC and Joeten soon followed Tan Holdings and McDonald's to the Final Four after capitalizing on their foes fourth quarter collapse.

Behind by 14 at the end of the third quarter, 50-64, CUC leaned on Eugene Manglona in the fourth quarter to pull off a come-from-behind victory. Manglona dropped 10 of his team-high 23 points in the final canto to give CUC the third semis berth. He also drew enough support from his

See CUC on Page 26

NMSA must have back-up plan for Oleai oval project

JON PEREZ
Northern Marianas Sports Association vice president Dr. Kurt Barnes and contractors bidding for the resurfacing of the Oleai track oval inspect the facility.

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

The Northern Marianas Sports Association must have a back-up plan in order to complete the resurfacing of the track oval inside the Oleai Sports Complex in case the funds approved for the project is insufficient.

This was what Northern Marianas Housing Corp. deputy corporate director Zenie P. Mafnas suggested when she and NMHC planner and environmental officer Jacob Muna met with NMSA vice president Kurt Barnes and NMSA executive director Tony Rogolifoi.

They met last Wednesday afternoon following the site inspection they made together with the representatives of the 10 interested contractors, which will be bidding to land the project.

Muna said that they are extending the submission

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Miyawaki, Heras debut in Margaret Court Cup

OCEANIA TENNIS
Isabel Heras, right, and Malika Miyawaki, second right, arrive in Australia along with other Pacific Oceania players in time for this weekend's 2016 Commercial Club Margaret Court Cup in Albury, New South Wales.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

CNMI junior players Isabel Heras and Malikawa Miyawaki will play their first game in the 2016 Commercial Club Margaret Court Cup this weekend in Albury, New South Wales in Australia.

Miyawaki is entered in both the girls U14 singles and doubles events, while Heras will be seeing action in the girls U16 singles and doubles competitions. The two Commonwealth players are part of the Pacific GSDF (Grand Slam Development Fund) Touring Team that has 17 other players from Samoa, Fiji, New Caledonia, Tahiti, American Samoa, and Vanuatu.

Miyawaki will be tested first in the doubles event this Saturday at the Albury Grasscourts. She will team up with Tahiti's Lea Vainui Lamorelle and they are the only Pacific Oceania players entered in the division. Thirteen pairs will battle for the doubles championship with Australia's Joy Andreaou and Emily Ioannou getting the No. 1 seed. Other seeded tandems are No. 1 Eilis Kruger and Keona Mendis, No. 3 Imogen Cameron and Ashleigh Simes, and No. 4 Chiara Di Tommaso and Charlie Hargreaves.

In tomorrow's opening round match, Miyawaki and Lamorelle will go up against the fellow unseeded pair of Clare D'Alessandro and Lara Wighton at the lower half of the main draw.

In the singles division, the 14-year-old Miyawaki will be pitted against Australia's Ella Fraser and if the CNMI bet survives the first round in the upper half of the bracket, she will be facing the third-ranked Ioannou in the second round.

In the girls U16 singles, Heras is also at the top half of the main draw and will challenge Kelsey Lewis. If the Saipan Community School student makes the grade in

See MIYAWAKI on Page 26